FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 JANUARY 1985

Lebanon

Israeli Withdrawal — If Lebanon and the United Nations give no clear reply to Israel concerning arrangements for the area to be evacuated by the IDF, Israel will still leave on the stipulated date, "even if there is no one to hand the area over to," Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir warned visiting UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart that cooperation between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army will be the only way to prevent chaos in southern Lebanon in the wake of Israel's withdrawal, according to the radio. Meanwhile Beirut radio reported that an Israeli armored battalion was seen withdrawing southward from the Sidon area.

Beirut Security — Voice of Lebanon radio announced that the security situation was still disturbed "following the failure to remove barricades and barriers in the center of West Beirut." Explosions rocked West Beirut late on 17 January and shells hit the eastern sector the following morning, injuring several people, according to the radio.

U.S.-USSR Mideast Talks Comment

Following the announcement that the United States and USSR have agreed to hold talks on the Middle East, Radio Monte Carlo reported that Jordanian political circles are "cautiously optimistic" about the future talks. Meanwhile, Israeli officials view the talks as Just an "exchange of views" without practical implications, Jerusalem radio noted.

Jordan

The Jordanian airline president has invited U.S. Jewish leaders to meet with King Husayn in Amman, Jerusalem radio reported. King Husayn approved the invitation, the radio added, and the Jewish leaders have received Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' blessing for the trip.

Sudan

Death Sentences — Mahmud Muhammad Taha was executed after President Ja'far Numayri confirmed the death sentences of five members of the "Republican Brothers Organization" and shortened their grace period from 30 to 3 days, SUNA announced.

Opposition Group — Representatives of the Democratic Alliance Party, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, and other opposition groups formed the "Sudanese Popular Resistance Front" after a September 1984 meeting in Libya, the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-SIYASAH* reported.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak ended his official visit to Greece 17 January after talks with political leaders, Athens radio reported.

Western Sahara

On 15 January Morocco completed the security wall extension along the Algerian and Mauritanian borders, according to the southern region commander in a report cited by Rabat radio.

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KUNA: 'Arafat Chairs Fatah Session in Tunis
LD172048 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1929 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Tunis, 17 Jan (KUNA) — The meetings of the Fatah Central Committee began here at noon today in the presence of Yasir 'Arafat to discuss new developments on the Palestinian arena.

An authoritative Palestinian source told KUNA that the Central Committee discussed the outcome of the visit paid by 'Arafat to a number of Arab capitals and the circumstances which followed the assassination of PLO Executive Committee member Fahd al-Qawasimah, as well as the [words indistinct] Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue.

The PLO Executive Committee is scheduled to meet later this evening or tomorrow under 'Arafat's chairmanship to discuss the developments of the situation on the Palestinian, Arab and international arenas.

AL-DUSTUR: PLO Officials Leave Amman for Tunis
JN180711 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Jan 85 pp 1, 18

[Excerpt] Amman -- Khalil al-Wazir [Abu Jihad], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; and 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, Muhammad Milhim, and Jawid al-Ghusayn, PLO Executive Committee members, left Amman for Tunis yesterday.

The PLO Executive Committee, the Fatah Central Committee, and the PNC chairmanship will begin intensive meetings in the Tunisian capital today to form a Palestinian political delegation under Faruq Qaddumi [Abu al-Lutf], head of the PLO Political Department, for the resumption of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue in Amman. Informed sources said this dialogue will concentrate on the need to draw up a joint Jordanian-Palestinian concept of movement in both the Arab and international arenas and on intensifying Jordanian-Palestinian efforts to hold an Arab summit conference as soon as possible in order to obtain Arab support for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian concept that will be reached by the two sides before the summit.

The PLO Executive Committee and the PNC chairmanship will also discuss preparations for a PLO Central Council meeting in Amman during the first third of February.

Fatah's Al-Natshah Urges Drive Against Corruption
PM171650 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 16 Jan 85 p 15

[Interview with Rafiq al-Natshah, alias Abu Shakir, member of the Fatah Central Committee and Fatah representative in Saudi Arabia, by Salih Qallab in Sanaa]

[Excerpts] Question: The recent PNC raised the slogan of reform but did not specify ways to implement this reform. Do you have any particular views on this matter?

Answer: The question is not one of raising slogans. When the PNC adopts a resolution the new leadership should adhere to it so that the raising of the question of reform will not become a matter of titillating the feelings of the Palestinian people's representatives. We must admit with all courage that there are those who harm the Palestinian cause and that these people have been indulging in their misdeeds to the point where they have come to believe they are beyond accountability because they are backed by certain quarters or close to some key Palestinian leadership circles. Everybody should understand that the time has come to implement what the PNC has decided and that the new Executive Committee should immediately begin work. It should review the PLO's financial and administrative situation and lay down a basis ensuring that work in the future will proceed in a better manner.

I say frankly that the symbols of corruption must be expelled from our revolution. Those who have harmed the revolution and its prestige must be punished. We must expel them from their posts and ban them from dealing with the public. The PLO offices should serve the people and not be their guardian. Every Palestinian official must realize that he is not an autocratic ruler. I refer in particular to those who work in the institutions caring for the martyrs' children. However, I must say that there are some people who are trying to exaggerate the corruption in order to harm the revolution. But this does not mean that we must bury our heads in the sand and attribute everything to the conspiracies our enemies are hatching.

Question: There are two views regarding these violations. Some people say that they are due to the dispersion of the resistance, while others say they are due to the wrong theory being pursued by the Palestinian revolution.

Answer: It is not a question of theory; there is nothing wrong with the principles. What is wrong is the actions of some of those who have reached positions through opportunism. This happens in all revolutions. Hypocrites and opportunists existed even during the times of the prophets and apostles. The problem as far as we are concerned is that the actions of these people are escalating. Because of our preoccupation in facing the daily challenges we did not prepare ourselves for this situation from the beginning. Once again I must say that, out of loyalty to the blood of our martyrs and in order to keep the revolution's image clean, we must immediately implement the PNC resolutions and rid this revolution of the symbols of corruption and those with black records.

Question: The PNC has adopted a resolution calling for military action to be stepped up. How can this be implemented in the light of the present situation on the Arab fronts?

Answer: At the PNC we demanded that the Arab borders be opened to the resistance. I believe that these fronts will sooner or later be open for us. The PNC resolution primarily concerns the situation inside the occupied territories. Specialists are now following up this matter. But we must admit that the PNC resolutions on this matter are not being fully carried out. We must also admit that the level of our military action inside the occupied territories is much lower than our people demand of us. For this reason, unfortunately, a number of questions has arisen.

We hear some people wondering whether there really is such a resolution or merely an inability to develop military action inside the occupied territories.

PNC Speaker Comments on Syrian Death Threats

JN171734 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has said that he received death threats from the Syrian regime and its agents who use Damascus as their base. In a speech at the Palestine Liberation Army base in Tebessa, Algiera, on Tuesday evening, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: They planned to assassinate me in either Amman or Aden.

He added that the Syrian regime and its agents wanted to do this in order to halt our moves and prevent us from carrying out our duty. However, they will be cursed. We will continue with the revolution until victory. Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that history will punish all those who did not attend the 17th PNC session out of fear of certain sides.

PLO Radio Reports Proposed U.S.-USSR Mideast Talks

JN171800 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] The U.S. White House announced yesterday evening that the United States and the USSR had agreed for the first time to hold bilateral talks on the Middle East situation. A White House spokesman said that the two superpowers had agreed in principle to hold the talks. However, he said that the exchange of views will be part of an organized diplomatic dialogue with the Soviets.

Resistance Attacks Reported in South Lebanon

JN171752 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] A Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance group set off high-explosive, remote-controlled charges yesterday while a Zionist military patrol was passing near Sidon in occupied southern Lebanon. One military vehicle was destroyed and another damaged and all of the occupants were either killed or injured by the explosions.

Another resistance group set off explosive charges yesterday under a Zionist military patrol on the Hasbaya-Al-Kufayr road in occupied southern Lebanon. One Zionist military vehicle was completely destroyed, one military half-track vehicle was damaged, and all of their occupants were either killed or injured.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the two operations but, as usual, did not mention his losses. He said that his forces immediately carried out a search campaign and arrested a large number of Palestinian and Lebanese citizens on the pretext of collaborating with the resistance men, who withdrew safely to base.

Thatcher Chairing Anglo-Israeli Society Condemned

LD171509 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1326 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Tunis, 17 Jan (KUNA) — Nabil Barad'i dispatch — A senior Arab diplomatic source expressed here today "the Arab states' disgust at the acceptance by Mrs Margaret Thatcher of the chairmanship of the Anglo-Israeli Friendship Society."

The source, which preferred to remain unnamed "for the time being," has told KUNA that the question of Mrs Thatcher's acceptance of the chairmanship of the society "constitutes an utterly unfriendly step toward the entire Arab nation and threatens the British interests in the Arab homeland."

The source affirmed that the question will be placed on the agenda of the forthcoming Arab League council meeting which will be held next March.

The senior Arab diplomatic source pointed out that political observers in the Arab homeland see a link between Mrs Thatcher's acceptance of the chairmanship of the Anglo-Israeli Friendship Society and the nonpositive British attitude toward the Palestine question during the Dublin EEC meetings last December.

Asked if Mrs Thatcher's persistence with the chairmanship of the Anglo-Israeli Friendship Society will lead to an economic break-up between Britain and the Arab countries and members of the Arab League, the senior Arab diplomatic source said "this and more is at stake. Hence, we hope that Mrs Thatcher will retract from the step for the sake of her country's interests in the Arab homeland and out of concern for continued Anglo-Arab friendship.

Iraqi Minister Urges Adherrence to Limits
LD171733 Vienna OPECNA in English 1630 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Vienna, 17 Jan. 85 (OPECNA) — The best way for OPEC to regain control over the oil market is for member countries "to adhere sincerely to the last conference decisions on prices and production and to resist consumer pressure", Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi declared today.

In an exclusive interview with OPECNA, the minister said OPEC must also "solve the differentials problem fairly, so as to provide the proper environment for the equitable competitiveness of all OPEC crudes, and remove any economic incentive for lifters [as received] to subject certain crudes to unjustifiable pressure".

He pointed out that the existing differentials between various grades of OPEC crudes, "without do not reflect the present market realities", were exerting great pressure on the competitiveness of Iraqi oil, "especially when we are doing our best to adhere to OPEC decisions and support the price structure". [sentence as received]

Taqi said Iraq — producing oil similar to the Arabian Light market crude — was "competing" with OPEC and non-OPEC light and heavy crudes, "in addition to the freight disadvantages we encounter in competing in some of our traditional markets in South and Southeast Asia".

"Once OPEC overcomes its present difficulties, the organization has to formulate the needed strategy to strengthen its role in the oil market, with a view to stabilizing it and preserving its long-term interests," the minister stated.

He predicted that the oil market would gradually improve "in view of the expected slight increase in net demand for OPEC oil due to the improved economic situation, and the fact that consumers are not expected to continue withdrawing from their stocks at the current high rates". The non-OPEC production increase was not expected to match the growth in world oil demand, he added.

Taqi said the current cold spell in Europe would contribute to the predicted improvement in the market and reduce pressure on the OPEC price structure.

He stressed: "Notwithstanding this, OPEC is set on defending its present price structure, based on 29 dollars per barrel for the marker crude, and is taking the necessary measures to counteract any pressure to reduce the level of oil prices".

The Iraqi minister said the effectiveness of the newly-formed ministerial executive council to audit member countries' production, exports and prices, would greatly depend on the attitude of OPEC members "and their sincere desire to support OPEC decisions".

"We hope that all members will do their utmost to adhere strictly to the decisions taken by the last conference, and to cooperate sincerely with the executive council so that the objectives of these decisions can be fulfilled to the benefit of the organization and its members."

Taqi pointed out that the only outlet for the present "limited" Iraqi oil exports was through the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline at Ceyham on the Mediterranean Sea.

He said that "in an effort to increase our export capacity and improve our flexibility", the capacity of this facility would be expanded to 1.5 million b/d through the installation of a second parallel pipeline.

"The first stage of our pipeline to the Red Sea through Saudi Arabia, with a capacity of 500,000 b/d, is also being implemented, and we hope it will be commissioned towards the end of this year," he noted.

"The second stage of the project is planned for completion by mid-1987, thus bringing the capacity of the line to 1.6 million b/d".

Taqi said a decision on the credit facility for the Iraqi-Saudi pipeline would be made soon.

Referring to the Iraqi-Jordanian pipeline project, he said this was "frozen for the time being, awaiting the necessary guarantees and further feasibility studies".

He added that the financial terms demanded by Iraq were connected to the "necessary guarantees" which related loan repayments to the continuation of pipeline operations.

BAHRAIN

U.S. Must Alter Mideast Policy in Talks With USSR

GF181000 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0832 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 18 Jan (WAKH)— The Bahrain newspaper *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* emphasized the importance of the U.S.-Soviet talks on the Middle East. The paper said that these official talks between the United States and the USSR are of supreme importance to the Middle East because it is the most volatile area in the world.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ expressed the view that the prevalence of a true climate of rapprochement in international relations and a decline of polarization will provide one of the principal conditions for a just settlement, without blackmail and terrorism.

The paper expressed the belief that the talks between the two superpowers will be of no use unless Washington abandons its tendencies to exercise hegemony over the settlement in an attempt to find a solution which suits Israel. The paper called on the United States to act on the basis of participating in a solution and to give the USSR a role because it is also a superpower and is concerned with its interests in the region.

The paper expressed the hope that the talks will truly be a beginning for amending the U.S. policy and a step toward a settlement based on justice and the participation of all parties concerned.

KUWAIT

Heir Apparent Discusses Domestic Affairs

GF171400 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 16 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, yesterday said the government had no current plans to amend the country's constitution. Recent talks about possible amendments was "a negative phenomenon alien to our society and traditions," he said.

Shaykh Sa'd told the editors-in-chief of local newspapers and the KUNA board chairman, Barges al-Barges, such talk was a by-product of campaigns for elections next month to a new four-year term of the National Assembly. Candidates leaked "groundless news" about such amendments to cast doubt on the government's position, and that of other candidates, on the issue, he said.

The government was forced to drop plans for constitutional reform early last year in the face of strong opposition from the current 50-member assembly, which ends its term on January 20, a month before the elections on February 20.

The proposals, dropped after heated debate and protracted behind-the-scenes discussions, contained provisions for the issue of emergency decrees by his highness the amir during the assembly's recess, including the power to declare martial law. They also sought to boost the number of elected deputies to reflect increases in the population, and to extend the term of parliament to five years.

During yesterday's meeting, Shaykh Sa'd referred to administrative reforms, and cautioned against "exaggeration by some parties on the issue," and explained that no society was totally free from some aspects of delinquency. He said those found guilty of corruption would be penalized under the country's legal system.

Shaykh Sa'd said the question required concerted efforts and an objective and scientific approach, so the performance of the Kuwaiti administrative apparatus lived up to the ambitions of the developing society. He said the committee for administrative development should be given room to do its job and offer recommendations, but said that, at the same time that the government welcomed objective proposals.

On sporting activities, Shaykh Sa'd stressed the need for officials to work together to maintain the high standard of Kuwaiti sports. He also called for an end to petty jealousies and trivial differences "which have an adverse effect on sports activities and run counter to the noble goals of sportsmanship".

The meeting also dealt with the Palestinian question, with Shaykh Sa'd urging the editors to extend full informational support for the Palestinian struggle to liberate the usurped lands.

USSR Envoy Reports on Meeting With Foreign Minister

GF171646 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 16 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] Following his meeting yesterday with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister and information minister, Pogos Akopov, Soviet ambassador to Kuwait, told *AL-QABAS* that the discussion revolved around the results of the meeting that took place between Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Geneva this month. He said: I briefed Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on the results of this meeting. We also discussed means of developing relations between the two friendly countries.

Answering a question, the Soviet ambassador stressed that the Middle East issue and the Iraqi-Iranian war were among the issues discussed in detail by Gromyko and Shultz. He added that the Soviet Union affirmed its stated positions toward these two issues. He said: I apprised Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on this and on all the issues that concern the two countries.

OMAN

Border Talks With PDRY To Begin 20 Jan

GF180612 Jeddah Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] A new round of talks will begin on 20 January between Oman and the PDRY on the border issue. Omani television, which carried the report, did not indicate the venue of the talks or any other details. Representatives from Kuwait and the UAE will attend the talks. The two countries contributed to the signing

of the agreement to normalize relations between Oman and the PDRY in 1982.

QATAR

Amir Receives Mauritanian President's Message

GF171206 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1005 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Doha, 17 Jan (WAKH) — Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a written message from Mauritanian President Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya on recent developments in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. The message was delivered by Mahfoudh Ould Lemrabott, Mauritanian minister of justice and Islamic affairs and special envoy of the Mauritanian president during his meeting today with the Qatari amir.

The Mauritanian envoy arrived in Doha yesterday on a visit to the state of Qatar as part of his tour of a number of the region's states.

SAUDI ARABIA

Riyadh: Soviet Army in 'Quagmire' in Afghanistan

LD171511 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Excerpts] When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979, the Soviet leaders believed that the task of the Soviet Army would be easy in light of the Army's sophisticated capabilities. But what has happened and is still happening today has confirmed beyond any shadow of a doubt that the Soviet invading army has fallen into a quagmire. We say this in light of reports which arrive daily from Afghanistan which talk about great victories being scored by the Afghan mujahidin in various areas where the invading Soviet forces and the pro-Soviet Kabul regime's forces are deployed. Military observers agree the Afghan mujahidin have foiled the Soviet stratagem in Afghanistan; in fact they have realized a great achievement in resisting the Soviet invading forces.

The Soviets have tried in vain to limit the operations of the Afghan mujahidin, and have used for this purpose all types of advanced weapons and even weapons which are internationally banned, such as chemical weapons. They have deployed more and more forces, whose number has reached more than 200,000, in addition to the military advisers. The Soviet forces have not hesitated to use aircraft in bombing Afghan villages and killing innocent civilians in a mass war of annihilation. The Soviets also use the policy of scorched earth.

The Afghan mujahidin fully realize that the liberation of their country from the grip of the Soviet Union cannot be accomplished except through jihad. For this reason, they do not attach much hope, as its looks, on any negotiations for solving the issue peacefully. This stems from their conviction that the Soviets do not want a peaceful solution.

In Afghanistan, there has been an escalation of operations by the mujahidin against Soviet positions, so much so that even the Soviet presence has become confined to limited areas, while the mujahidin are in control of more than 80 percent of Afghan territories. The Afghan jihad requires more Islamic support because what is happening in Afghanistan is an attempt by the forces of apostasy to wipe out the Islamic identity in this Muslim country.

UAE

UK's Luce Stops Over in Dubayy

GF171602 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1315 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Dubayy, 17 Jan (WAM) — Richard Luce, British minister of foreign and commonwealth affairs, left the country this morning after stopping over in Dubayy overnight for a few hours en route home from his Middle East tour.

PDRY

Lebanon's Junblatt, Delegation Depart

GF171346 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Brother Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party and chairman of the Lebanese Democratic Front, and Brother 'Asim Qansu, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today left Aden following a visit to our country.

Briefs

Envoy to Algeria — Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid has received the credentials of Husayn Muhammad 'Arab, the new PDRY ambassador to Algeria. [Summary] [*Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Jan 85 GF*]

Bulgarian Youth Delegation — 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today received the visiting Bulgarian youth delegation. [Summary] [*Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jan 85 GF*]

YAR

Iranian Delegation Arrives for Talks

GF171836 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] An Iranian Majlis delegation led by Hoseyn Sobhani-Neya, member of the Iranian Majlis and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, arrived in Sanaa on a visit to the republic. In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Sobhani-Neya said that he will discuss bilateral relations with officials.

PNC Deputy Chairman Concludes Visit, Departs
GF171300 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Brother Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adhib, member of the Fatah Central Committee and PNC deputy chairman, left Sanaa today after a visit to our country which lasted several days. During his visit he met with a number of officials.

In statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Brother al-Za'nun expressed pleasure over the results of his visit. He said he held discussions with Brother 'Abd al-Karim al-'Araki, vice president, chairman of the People's Constituent Council, and member of the Standing Committee, on parliamentary issues and the importance of coordination and cooperation between the People's Constitiuent Council and the PNC since our country is chairing the Arab Parliamentary Union.

In conclusion, the Palestinian official hailed the depth of Yemeni-Palestinian relations in all fields.

He was seen off by Brother Yusuf al-Ash'ari, deputy chairman of the People's Constituent Council; Brother Hikmat Zayd, PLO representative in Sanaa, and a number of officials.

Briefs

Envoy to Kuwait — Sa'id al-Hakimi delivered his credentials to Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah in Kuwait today as YAR ambassador to Kuwait. [Summary] [*Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jan 85 GF*]

I KATHIMERINI Interview With Butrus Ghali
NC161626 Athens I KATHIMERINI in Greek 16 Jan 85 pp 1,3

[Text] Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, who for years has expressed his country's foreign policy and who will accompany Mubarak to Athens, granted an interview to *I KATHIMERINI* in which he specifically notes the possibilities that Greece has to play a "very serious role in the area." At the same time, Ghali stresses that "current relations between Greece and Egypt are at an admirable level."

Regarding the Cyprus issue, Butrus Ghali said: We have not changed our position. We support Cyprus' territorial integrity and have not accepted the so-called Turkish Cypriot state. We hope that the negotiations taking place under the UN secretary general's auspices will soon reach a solution. The Cyprus problem is not an easy problem and we do not want to underestimate it, but we have faith in Perez de Cuellar's role, and in the possibility to achieve a compromise. At the same time, Egypt supports the positions included in the UN resolutions on Cyprus.

Regarding Greece's role in the Middle East, Butrus Ghali said: We believe that Greece can play a very significant role, both as a member of the EC and by itself as an independent country. We believe that the EC can help us solve the Middle East crisis and achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East. The EC maintains special relations with Israel and can try to convince it to follow a more positive stance vis-a-vis the problem of peace in the area. Even more significantly, Europe has very good relations with the United States and can continue efforts so that the United States may follow a more positive stance in the Middle East crisis. The EC can play a very important role and it is equally important that there should be support for the Palestinians — not only for the PLO, but also for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who need support.

We are truly grateful to Greece for its very positive stance in support of the Palestinian people, and we believe that Greece's role can be very significant because there can be no peace in the Middle East if the Palestinian problem is not solved. Greece is a Mediterranean country; Egypt is a Mediterranean country; and the Palestinian issue is a Mediterranean problem. This is why Greece can play a very important role in the area — and it has indeed played this role alone and within the EC.

Ghali's views on relations between Greece and Egypt are the following:

We have had certain minor problems, like the problem of the awqaf [religious trust] in Kavala [property in the Greek town of Kavala that had belonged to the Egyptian awqaf] which, however, has been solved by a law passed by the Greek Parliament. Currently, many Egyptians are working in Greece and we have very good commercial and economic relations. Recently, we signed an agreement for cooperation in the area of information. The two governments have constant consultations both within the UN framework and outside it, and we maintain very good cooperation in the diplomatic field. Cooperation between us will continue so that we may contribute to the maintenance of peace in the Mediterranean; this is a mutual duty.

On Egypt's relations with the other Arab countries, Butrus Ghali said:

There is an exaggeration regarding our relations with the majority of the Arab countries connected more with procedures than with goals. We share the same goals — the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the achievement of peace through negotiations. We disagree on the way to achieve this.

However this is only one aspect. The other aspect is that despite the dispute which the Camp David agreement has created, at this moment, 3 million Egyptians are working in the Arab area, tens of thousands of Arabs are studying in Egyptian universities, millions of dollars are being invested in Egypt by Arab businessmen, and we have diplomatic missions in the capitals of most Arab states. The only difference is that an ambassador is not heading these missions, and if you want to travel from Cairo to any other Arab capital you will have to wait 1 or 2 weeks on the "waiting list."

This is the reality of Egypt's interstate relations with various Arab countries. We must not exaggerate differences; I believe that sooner or later all the Arab states will upgrade their diplomatic missions in Cairo to the embassy level as happened with Jordan. Sooner or later Arab solidarity will transcend all intra-Arab differences. Consequently let us not exaggerate. It concerns differences within the framework of a large family.

Ghali's view on the Camp David agreement and on whether Israel has respected it is as follows:

No, Israel has not respected it. However, I repeat that it is the only document bearing Israel's signature. It is like my owing you $100, and both of us have signed a receipt for the debt. Therefore as long as you cannot find a solution to get this money back because I am not giving it to you, you will keep the receipt because it will strengthen your claim.

If however, new agreements are made, if an international conference is held, we shall be the first to be jubilant. We shall be the first to applaud such a thing.

Ghali's reply on Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union and the United States:

Our relations with the United States are very good. During the 1960-70 period we had especially good relations with the Soviet Union, while during the 1970-80 period we had especially good relations with the United States. However, in both cases, there has not been a special link with either side. I am not speaking of "equal distances" from the two superpowers because this exists only in geometry. In politics there is only balance; we have tried to maintain this balance.

Of course we have very good relations with the United States, but at the same time we are trying to maintain good relations with the Soviet Union, because through such a balance we shall be able to strengthen the Nonaligned Movement and the role it can play to reduce the cold war between the two superpowers.

The view of the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs on Papandreou's initiative for the denuclearization of the Balkans is as follows:

For its part Egypt, has made proposals for the denuclearization of the Middle East. In fact we have submitted the proposal to the UN General Assembly. Consequently we support any proposal which may contribute to the reduction of nuclear arms.

GDR Foreign Minister To Visit Cairo 23 Jan

NC181110 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA) — GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer will arrive in Cairo on 23 January on an official 3-day visit to Egypt. He will hold talks with Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and other Egyptian officials on political topics of mutual interest, particularly the Middle East problem and African issues. His talks will also deal with ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation, especially in the economic and technical spheres, and with the GDR's participation in various Egyptian projects.

AL-AHRAM Urges Israeli Flexibility at Tabah Talks

NC180730 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 18 Jan 85

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "A New Test of Peace," *AL-AHRAM* says: There is no doubt that Egypt views the 27 January meeting in Beersheba with an eye that looks beyond the confines of negotiations on the Tabah issue. Egypt's clear view on the Tabah problem, for the continuation of which Israel is solely responsible, has been reiterated. Tabah is Egyptian land, and Israel knows beforehand that Egypt will not relinquish a single inch of its territory. The most that Egypt can offer in this regard is flexibility toward any arrangements that may be agreed upon involving Tabah and the installations there, provided that there is no infringement on Egypt's absolute sovereignty over this area.

Egypt sees the Beersheba meetings as a test of the extent of the Israeli Government's gravity and flexibility in its desire to secure peace and to move toward the normalization of relations with Egypt by responding to the latter's demands — that a solution to the Tabah problem be found, that Israel withdraw from Lebanon, and that Israel adopt encouraging steps that build confidence among Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

In conclusion, *AL-AHRAM* says: The atmosphere is now suitable for Israel to prove its seriousness in opting for peace. It can do this by showing flexibility and logic in the Beersheba negotiations, and by giving Egypt encouraging indications that it is abandoning its traditional policy, to reap the fruit of any aggression, even if it is an inch of land belonging to others.

Briefs

Mission Head in Rabat — Rabat, 17 Jan (MENA) — Dr Munir Zahran, minister plenipotentiary in charge of the Egyptian interests mission in Morocco, arrived in Rabat today to assume his duties. [Text][*Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 17 Jan 85 NC*]

Spokesman's Statement on 18 Jan Maritime Attack

JN181416 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In order to continue our challenge to the evil Iranian ruling clique, which insists on continuing its aggression to realize its vain ambitions, and to implement the rightful blockade of Iranian ports, our brave Air Force eagles carried out a daring raid on a medium-sized maritime target near Khark Island at 1400 today. They scored accurate hits and returned safely with their planes, supported by God's protection.

The Iraqi Armed Forces will continue their painful blows to the enemy and its supply sources until it heeds the voice of truth and reason and desists from its aggressive policy. Success comes from God.

[dated] 18 January 1985

Planes Carry Out 72 Missions in Maysan Sector

JN171730 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Communique No 1,714 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 January 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In order to preserve Iraq's freedom and security and to maintain its high position among world countries; in order to guard the nation's values and history; and in order to defend the new plants that will bear fruit in the future, the warriors of the truth, the heroic sons of Iraq, are continuing their valiant battles, dealing painful blows to the remnants of the rapacious barbarians. The following is a summary of operations for last night and today:

1. Our Air Force planes continued their destructive missions against enemy concentrations and equipment in the Maysan sector today, meting out just punishment to the Iranian rulers, the preachers of sedition and ruination. After carrying out 72 missions, our daring eagles returned safely with their planes under the protection of God, who grants victory.

2. Using artillery and other weapons, our units pounded selected enemy targets in the Maysan sector, inflicting losses in men and equipment. They also destroyed one hardware stockpile, one infantry position, and one observation post and set fire to other enemy hardware stockpiles.

3. Using artillery and mortars, our forward units opened continuous fire on a number of enemy positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles east of Basra, scoring direct, effective hits and killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers. An enemy hardware stockpile was destroyed and columns of smoke were seen rising from enemy positions elsewhere in the same sector.

4. Our artillery men fired on enemy positions and mortar emplacements in the northern sector scoring effective hits. Direct hits were scored on one observation post, one infantry position, and one heavy machine gun emplacement, killing those manning them.

5. Using artillery, one of our forward units engaged a number of enemy positions in the Central sector, scoring direct hits.

6. While our soldiers are fighting the enemy on the battlefield, the Iranian rulers resort to cowardly acts. At 1452 today, the enemy shelled Khurmal with heavy artillery, contravening the agreement that was reached under UN auspices. One woman was martyred.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 January 1985

Oil Minister on Syrian Attempts To Block Lawsuit

JN171220 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA) — Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi has said that the OAPEC judiciary committee's rejection of Syria's argument that the committee is not qualified to look into Iraq's lawsuit against Syria on banning the flow of Iraqi oil across Syrian territory is considered a victory for Iraq and an affirmation of the committee's aptitude for examining the cases presented to it.

In a statement to INA, the minister said that Syria resorted to flimsy pretexts in an attempt to prevent the committee from looking into Iraq's lawsuit against it, as well as to avoid facing the evidence and proof contained in the lawsuit.

Qasim Ahmad Taqi indicated that the judiciary committee will discuss the Iraqi lawsuit when it meets in March. He said that Syria must look for new pretexts for countering the Iraqi evidence against it, since it has failed to prevent the committee from examining the case.

Oil Minister Confers With Polish Official

JN171311 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi met with Andrzej Dorosz, Polish foreign trade under secretary, and his delegation. They discussed bilateral oil cooperation and ways of developing it.

The Polish trade delegation arrived in Baghdad Monday on an official visit of several days.

Prince Hasan Views Mideast Problem

PM171504 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
16 Jan 85 pp 12, 13

[Crown Prince Amir Hasan article: "Jordan and Peace"]

[Text] The Arab-Israeli conflict and its consequences have dominated the Middle East political scene for the past 36 years. The effect of this conflict has been varied and different; it has not been confined merely to the constant threat of the outbreak of war and the latent danger of worldwide confrontation, but has also had negative effects on political and economic development in the countries directly concerned with it. There has been a continuing concentration on defending the land and the rights, and this consumes an ever-increasing portion of the few available resources, which leaves meager resources to deal with the pressing social and economic problems.

Jordan has gotten used to living in the eye of an ever-raging storm. Yet to search for shelter from the storm winds is not to deal with their sources. Rather, the problem should be dealt with and confronted directly. Thus, since the Israeli occupation of the Arab lands in 1967, Jordan has actively participated in calling for a number of initiatives and proposals for the achievement of just and lasting peace in the Middle East. What confirms Jordan's commitment to this just and lasting peace is its support for Security Council Resolution 242, which we regard as the cornerstone in the process of establishing peace in the area. The fundamental principle of this resolution centers on the exchange of peace for land — total peace in return for the entire land. Our commitment to this principle has remained firm and unwavering. So what are the essential issues that will be solved by the implementation of the provisions of this resolution?

1. The National Right to Self-determination

The national right to self-determination is undeniable. While the Jews have been able to exercise this right with the active support of the big powers, the Palestinians have been denied from doing the same. The party that has prevented them has been Israel, with the support of a big power, namely the United States. Defending the right to self-determination is regarded as one element of the liberal heritage which the United States disseminates in the world. President Reagan recalled this when he said: "Our commitment to the right of self-determination, freedom, and peace is the essence of the American spirit. This commitment is still as strong today as it was in the past." But such statements seem somewhat contrary to reality in view of the U.S. opposition to granting this right to the Palestinians.

The national right to self-determination is not merely a political measure, but the result of legitimate rights — historical, cultural, social, and economic — that are crowned when a definite and distinctive society exercises the right of political sovereignty in the country of its forefathers. Israel has denied these rights to the Palestinians and its offer to grant local autonomy to the population of the occupied territories does not meet the requirements of sovereignty. The prevention of the Palestinians from exercising their rights in full is regarded as disregard for a basic element of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

2. Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Territories

The Israeli settlements that have been built in the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights are illegal. These settlements constitute a violation of the principles of international law and agreements that prohibit the seizure of land through war. The building of these settlements has been a violation of Articles 49 and 53 of the fourth Geneva Convention and General Assembly Resolutions 2851 of 1971 and 3525 of 1975. At present the inhabitants of the occupied territories live in a state of conflict and bitterness. Those inhabitants are tantamount to a beleaguered society whose integral existence is threatened by the Israeli settlements and the advancing process of annexation. For example, the denial of financial appropriations to the West Bank has depressed its economy and made it dependent upon the Israeli economy. This policy is being pursued with the aim of driving the inhabitants to leave the occupied territories.

Various successive U.S. administrations have condemned the building of settlements in the occupied territories as illegal, and a tangible change occurred when these settlements were recently described as an "obstacle to peace." But despite President Reagan's clear call on Israel to halt the building of more settlements within the framework of his peace initiative in 1982, the United States vetoed Security Council resolutions declaring the illegality of these settlements. Thus U.S. public postures have encouraged Israel in its intransigent attitude. The United States must adopt a cohesive policy and a firm stand on this vital matter that has hindered the peace process.

3. The Situation of Jerusalem

In 1967 the Israeli Armed Forces occupied Arab eastern Jerusalem, which Israel annexed at a later date. The Security Council and the General Assembly have repeatedly condemned this annexation as illegal, despite the fact that Israel calls it "unification" in order to lighten its impact. International law does not recognize Israel's sovereignty over eastern Jerusalem, and the annexation of the old city during wartime was an illegal measure that has no legitimate foundation. There are detailed provisions that restrict the powers and legal rights of an occupation force in an enemy land which are found in the Hague protocol appended to the fourth Hague Convention of 1907, as well as in the fourth Geneva convention.

There is a legal distinction between annexing and occupying enemy land in the laws and traditions of land wars incorporated in the fourth Hague Convention of 1907 and in the Hague regulations attached to it, especially Articles 42 to 56. The law provides that the occupation force does not acquire the right of sovereignty on occupied territories.

Moreover, the city of Jerusalem enjoys a special spiritual position in the three heavenly religions — Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. This city thereby rises above the level of national politics, political ideologies, or strategies. Unilateral control will deprive the city of Jerusalem of its spiritual position. Also this control will not only prolong the Arab-Israeli conflict but will also spoil the United States' relations with the Islamic world. Arab sovereignty over eastern Jerusalem must be restored, and the legal status of the whole city should not be decided before a final settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict is reached.

4. The Comprehensive Settlement

Experience has demonstrated that partial peace measures, as in the case of the Camp David accords, do not serve the objectives of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. On the contrary, Camp David has further complicated the problem to a large extent. Likewise Arab reliance on the United States as the only mediator did not lead to the desired results. This dead end has prompted Jordan to revise the peace process in an attempt to break the deadlock.

Jordan is trying to revive this process through the negotiation method that originally began at the Geneva conference on the Middle East which the United States and the Soviet Union cochaired. Richard Nixon, the then U.S. President, was convinced that peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without the cooperation of the two big powers. And in view of the U.S. open bias in favor of Israel, which has undermined U.S. credibility as a peace mediator, Jordan has called for an international peace conference in order to reach a comprehensive settlement for the conflict.

The call for an international peace conference represents a resolute and determined endeavor to activate the peace process that has been deadlocked for a long time. This call also represents an attempt to form a stand in which Jordan, in cooperation with other Arab countries, will be able to resuscitate any positive peace steps in the future.

Despite the fact that Jordan is totally committed to Security Council Resolution No 242, our call for an international conference remains an open and flexible one. This initiative suggests for the peace process a method with which the United States and Israel are familiar. Jordan has held large-scale consultations in this regard that have shown a general consensus in Europe, in the Third World, and among the Arab parties concerned with the conflict, including the PLO, in support of this idea.

The new conference, like the previous Geneva conference to discuss a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict under UN supervision, will be tantamount to an international umbrella in order to make up for the present Israeli domination of the area. This matter is of particular importance because it is difficult, if not impossible, for the United States to continue playing the role of impartial mediator while excluding all others. Moreover, the participation of all the parties directly concerned with the conflict represents the only sure way to guarantee a just and lasting settlement.

5. The Threat From the Extremists

One of the major aspects causing concern is the possibility that the present stalemate will lead to a primitive war between extremist confessional groups that actually threaten the fabric of our societies. We must bear in mind the lessons learned from Lebanon and Iran. The Israeli political system is not immune from the policy of fanaticism either. On the contrary, there are indications that Israel is strongly exposed to this danger. The grim possibility facing the Middle East countries at present is that of sliding into a prolonged, fierce, and all-destroying war. For this reason, it is of maximum importance to work continuously and to support the peace efforts in the area. The achievement of this objective requires regional cooperation between countries with common interests and views. Jordan's resumption of diplomatic relations with Egypt is a step in this direction. Egypt's return to active participation in the Arab ranks will certainly help curb the trend toward extremism and contain it.

The manner in which U.S. foreign policy is managed, in addition to the outcome of the recent general elections in Israel, does not help in reaching agreement in international or regional conflicts. But we are still hopeful that men with strong wills and good intentions will provide for the world the firm moral leadership that it so badly needs.

The achievement of a comprehensive settlement requires resolve and perspicacity from all the parties concerned so that the countries of the area can devote their attention to the major task they are facing, namely sound social and economic development with peace and coordination. The link between Jordan and Palestine is of great importance to both nations, and cooperation between them is necessary for the preservation of the Arab identity on their territories. The Jordanian concept of this link is of a middle democratic area lying between Israel, the Mediterranean, the Sinai Peninsula, and the oil-rich Gulf countries. [sentence as published]

Financial and economic channels must be developed in order to support building and construction operations in the area. Jordan has continued to give large financial aid from its limited resources in order to preserve the administrative and public bodies in the occupied West Bank. But the aid which the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee has been giving has always been subject to Israeli restrictions. And as long as Israel insists on claiming its right to the occupied territories, it will be impossible for Jordan to lay down a comprehensive strategy for the development of that area.

A comprehensive settlement will release the constructive potential of both the Jordanians and the Palestinians so they can work in the field of economic and social development that can bolster peace. This potential can easily turn the area into an advanced workshop and a center for the maintenance of modern technology. Such a settlement must be backed by a plan for the area similar to the "Marshall Plan," so as to enable its people to exploit their resources fully and to live in peace and cooperation.

Optimism Voiced Regarding U.S.-USSR Talks

JN171440 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Fu'ad Na'im dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian political circles are cautiously optimistic about the reports from Washington on a future dialogue between the United States and the USSR on the Middle East. Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's national security adviser, said yesterday that Washington and Moscow will exchange views on this issue.

So far, no official Jordanian comment has been made on McFarlane's statement, but political circles in Amman believe that the coming dialogue will lead to a new and more flexible U.S. stand toward the Palestinian problem. However, these circles do not conceal their fear that the U.S.-USSR dialogue will assume the form of a new agreement to distribute the international spheres of influence between them in a manner that will not be in the Arabs' interest.

In recent years, King Husayn has warned against an international polarization of the Middle East problem that would rob it of its special status. However, the Jordanian sources are of the view that the Washington-Moscow dialogue can be positive if it leads to a joint stand to solve the Arab-Israeli crisis on the basis of international resolutions and the October 1977 U.S.-USSR agreement. A statement was issued at that time calling on Israel to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. But President Carter abandoned it after his talks with the then Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

On another level, Jordan is of the view that it is necessary to unify the Arab stand so that the Arab group can influence the U.S.-USSR dialogue on the Middle East if it actually takes place. Hence Jordan's recent endeavors to convene the next Arab summit as soon as possible.

JERUSALEM STAR Interviews Japanese Official

JN171234 Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 17-23 Jan 85 p 1

[By Sana' 'Alul]

[Text] Amman — Japan is in "a good position to support Jordanian efforts in search for peace in the Middle East," according to the Director General of the Middle East and African Affairs section in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In an interview with *THE STAR*, Mr Wasuke Miyake, said that his visit to Jordan has enabled him to understand the Jordanian efforts and the political role which it, as a moderate power, can play in achieving peace in the region.

Mr Miyake who left Jordan on Wednesday after a one-day visit, met the Foreign Minister Mr Tahir al-Masri, and Minister of the Royal Court 'Adnan Abu Awdah.

He said that Jordan plays an important role in supporting the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which was visible through Jordan's efforts in helping to convene the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman last year.

He also commended Jordan's decision to re-establish relations with Egypt.

Mr Miyake said that Japan supports the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and supports its struggle to achieve self-determination for the Palestinians on their own land. He called upon the United States to play a "constructive" role in bringing peace to the region.

On the Iraq-Iran war, Mr Miyake said that Japan had asked Iran more than once to stop the war, but Iran showed no change in its attitude.

He said that Japan was affected by the Gulf war and that its oil imports were "disturbed" because of the attacks on the oil tankers. He said that commercial agreements between Japan and the two warring countries had been frozen for the time being.

Parliamentary Committees Meet; Karami Statement
NC171554 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] The joint parliamentary committees held a meeting at Mansur Palace [headquarters of the Chamber of Deputies] under Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Acting Interior Minister Joseph Skaf, and members of the committees attended the meeting.

The meeting was devoted to discussing the current political and security developments in the country in light of recent Cabinet decisions, as well as the enemy government's decision to implement a phased withdrawal from Lebanon. Prime Minister Karami briefed the members of the committees on political and security developments, especially regarding the security plans, Beirut security, and the position on the Al-Naqurah talks.

After the meeting, Chamber Speaker Al-Husayni said:

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] In Lebanon's view, there are three stages; Lebanon can only accept a timetable for withdrawals to the international borders. When the government receives this timetable, it will be able to hold talks with the United Nations on taking measures that will help Lebanon establish its authority over the territory from which Israel withdraws.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Speaker, is there agreement between the members of the committees and the government on the measures that the government took recently?

[Al-Husayni] As I have said, there was quasi-unanimity on supporting the government in its position regarding the Al-Naqurah talks. There are various views, but all of them seek the implementation of the government's measures, because the situation cannot tolerate any further delay or procrastination in establishing real security, which will enable the citizens to resume their normal work, because the security situation basically affects our deteriorating economic situation. [end recording]

As for Prime Minister Karami, he spoke elaborately on all the issues and matters that were discussed during the meeting. He said:

[Begin recording] [Karami] The discussions during this session were a continuation of those held during the previous session. During the recess between the two sessions, some developments took place and we briefed the deputies on them. Therefore, in light of what we heard, the discussions helped the government to learn more about the developments taking place, and we hope that these discussions will be used for the complete unconditional liberation of Lebanon, for the adoption of further measures conducive to the restoration and consolidation of security in all Lebanese areas, as well as for the work to combat the high cost of living and to ensure the citizens' security and livelihood in a manner that will make us feel that we are advancing toward our goals.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Karami] In view of the painful state of affairs we are experiencing and of the burdensome legacy of the events of the past 10 years, we must deal with all the existing gaps. He who is idle cannot progress. Therefore, we mean to act in light of the security plans designed to restore stability and achieve what everyone is seeking. For this reason, no plan can be perfect from the outset. Every gap that occurs during implementation must be dealt with and eliminated. We are confident that through contacts and endeavors we will daily advance further toward our goal of saving the people from their suffering.

[Unidentified reporter] (?Did you reach) a mutual visualization with the deputies on the (?decisions)?

[Karami] I have said that the discussions cleared the path we are traversing, and therefore we seek to serve the public interest. [end recording]

Israeli Withdrawals Start in Sidon Area
NC171400 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] The Zionist occupation forces today began practical steps along the path of withdrawal in stages from the occupied Lebanese territory. Our correspondent in the south has witnessed the withdrawal of the first column of vehicles, consisting of 12 vehicles and 10 trucks, from the Tallat Mar Ilyas post toward Al-Zahrani, where the occupation forces have set up a center for assembling its forces. Similar withdrawal operations have been noted from the Sharhabil Bin Hasan post in the direction of Al-Zahrani. A column of vehicles has been seen withdrawing from the Al-Awwali line in the direction of the south.

In the meantime, the dismantling of all installations in all posts of the occupation forces in Sidon area is continuing.

Factfinding Committee Leaves Beirut for Tunis
NC171314 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Excerpts] At 1115 today, a delegation of the Information and Factfinding Committee for the Liberation of the South, Western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya, left Beirut for Tunis. The delegation is led by former Minister Michel Iddih, and includes former Ministers Sami Yunis and Ja'far Sharaf ad-Din, Information Adviser Radwan Mawlawi, and Ambassador Nadim Dimashqiyah. The delegation was seen off by several officials of the Chamber of Deputies.

Before departing, Iddih made a statement to our correspondent Nada 'Ammar at the airport, in which he warned against heeding Israel's misleading rumors and allegations repeated by its media to create sedition, incidents, and disturbances in the south. Former Minister Iddih said:

[Begin recording] It is our duty to refute the Israeli allegations and expose Israel's real intentions. We must safeguard the atmosphere of fraternity and excellent coexistence in the south. The southern people, be they Christians or Muslims, are one

people, and want to live in coexistence. Israel claims that its presence is preventing massacres. We have to show the contrary. Therefore, our task as Lebanese is to enlighten the Arab and world public opinion, which has been misled by the suspect Israeli information media. This is our task and the mission of our brothers in the Arab League is to support us in our efforts to foil the well-known Israeli plans. [end recording]

Resistance Attack on Israeli Convoy Reported
NC171317 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Excerpt] National resistance fighters last night attacked a convoy of the Israeli occupation forces while passing through the Njasa crossroad in Sidon. One vehicle was put out of action and all its occupants were killed or wounded. Armored Israeli reinforcements arrived in the area where several youths were detained for questioning.

The occupation forces yesterday intensified its foot patrols in Sidon's main streets where they arrested 15 youths. Armored Israeli forces cordoned off Harat Sayda, cutting all its accesses with tanks and vehicles. Large-scale searches were carried out and many arrests were made.

Israelis Release Detainees; Incidents in South
NC171945 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] According to a report from the south tonight, the Israeli enemy has released half of the detainees in the Mar Ilyas detention camp near Sidon, and has transferred the remaining half to the Ansar detention camp. The released detainees include Ahmad 'Assaf who returned to his township.

In another development, Lebanese national resistance fighters attacked a position of the so-called army of agent Lahd on the Haruf-Al-Duwayr road in the Al-Nabatiyah District at noon today. The position received direct hits, but the casualties are not known because of the security cordon which the enemy forces have imposed around the area.

An Israeli military spokesman admitted the operation, but denied, as usual, that there have been any casualties.

On the other hand, the enemy's Centurion tanks continue to patrol the main and secondary streets of Sidon. The members of the patrols open fire at random without any apparent reason, particularly when they arrive at the road junctions.

The body of Haydar Ahmad Hayik was found today riddled with bullets near the city of Tyre. Gunmen kidnapped Haydar this morning from his workplace at one of the gas stations in Tyre. Unidentified persons also kidnapped Jawad 'Ali Jawad in Tyre; his fate remains unknown.

Phalangists, Lebanese Forces Committed to Security
NC180813 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Minister Joseph al-Hashim contacted Army Commander General Michel 'Awn and Beirut Operations Commander Brigadier General Muhammad al-Hajj yesterday to affirm that the Phalange Party and the Lebanese Forces were fully committed to the implementation of the security plan.

Minister Al-Hashim said that he was prepared to work personally to eliminate any problem arising in the field, while stressing that there were no problems in East Beirut, where the commitment has not changed and the response has been total since an accord was reached on these measures.

PSP, Amal To Close Branch Offices in Beirut
NC180840 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] A Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] source has reported that the party and the Amal movement have made a definite and practical decision to close their branch offices in Beirut and to prevent the appearance of gunmen.

The source expressed the expectation that implementation of the security measures approved by the Cabinet will create a suitable atmosphere for ongoing contacts to resolve pending issues. However, he added, issues in the field are difficult and must be dealt with seriously.

The PSP source accused certain quarters, that have no interest in the success of the security plan, of seeking to hinder current efforts by exploiting issues that have not yet been dealt with, particularly the plan for the coast and Iqlim al-Kharrub.

It was added that PSP leader Walid Junblatt arrived in Damascus from Aden yesterday afternoon, and that he is expected to meet with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to discuss the Lebanese situation and political and security developments.

Meanwhile, telephone conversation has taken place between PSP Command Member Riyad Ra'd and Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, in which the implementation of security decisions was reviewed.

Series of Explosions Reported in West Beirut
NC172015 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] The explosion that took place at 2100 today in the Spinneys stores was followed by other explosions. At 2140, an explosion occurred on Al-Sadat street when a parcel filled with dynamite was thrown into an empty lot.

This was followed at 2145 by another explosion near the Ziqaq al-Bilat Mosque; a booby-trapped vehicle caused material damage only.

Several Wounded in East Beirut

NC180654 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Excerpt] At 0725 today, six artillery shells fell in the areas of Furn al-Shubbak and 'Ayn al-Rummanah, wounding several people, including three students on their way to school.

Security sources linked the six shells with the disturbing situation in West Beirut and the series of explosions highlighting the disagreements among the armed organizations there, particularly the explosions heard last night following the failure to remove the barricades and barriers in the center of West Beirut. Five explosions took place between 2000 and 2210 last night in West Beirut, rocking its quarters, but doing only material damage.

Briefs

Appointment of TV Chairman — Presidential Decree 2192 was issued yesterday appointing Michel Samahah chairman of the board of directors and director general of Lebanon's television company. The decree was signed by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Finance Minister Camille Sham'un, and Information Minister Joseph Skaf. [Text] [*Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jan 85 NC*]

8th Regional Ba'th Congress Adjourns Until 19 Jan
JN171538 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Damscus — The Eighth Regional Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has adjourned until 1000 on Saturday, the day after tomorrow. The Congress continued its discussion of the organizational report in this morning's session.

AL-BA'TH Israeli Withdrawal Decision New 'Hoax'
JN181131 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 18 Jan 85

[From the press review]

[Text] On the situation in southern Lebanon, the newspaper *AL-BA'TH* says: World public opinion is not so naive as to believe the peace hoax which Israel is trying to peddle. According to the declared decision, there can be no withdrawal unless it is associated with a definite and clear timetable.

The fact that the enemy government's decision is enveloped in mystery and ambiguity, and is open to many possiblities and interpretations, renders it a mere decision on the redeployment of forces aimed at averting more of the human and material losses the Lebanese national resistance is inflicting. It is also a new attempt to tighten military control over the south by means of the new positions, and by depending on hireling agents and consequently getting protection behind the UN interim forces.

AL-BA'TH explains that Lebanon has demanded a clear and fixed timetable on the enemy's unconditional withdrawal. This demand sheds light on Israel's new hoax, and returns the ball toRabin's court so that he can amuse himself while watching how his forces are fumbling about under the Lebanese resistance fire. The resistance rifles will be silent only after the invaders are expelled. This is now the only fact in the south.

Leaders Meet With UN's Brian Urquhart

Peres, Rabin, Urquhart Confer

TA171419 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart this afternoon conferred with the defense minister and later with the prime minister. Emerging from the meeting with Minister Rabin, Urquhart refused to comment on the matters raised in the meeting, and said that he would provide details only after he finished his round of talks on the Lebanese affair. The UN under secretary general arrived in Israel this afternoon following a round of talks in Damascus.

Shamir Urges UN Cooperation

TA171731 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that only cooperation between the UN force and the Lebanese Army could prevent chaos in southern Lebanon if [im] the IDF begins to withdraw. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that Shamir made these remarks in a meeting with UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart. Urquhart said that the government in Beirut was surprised by the Israeli decision to withdraw. However, only a Lebanese appeal to the United Nations will change UNIFIL's deployment and its tasks in southern Lebanon.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres emphasized to Urquhart that Israel decided to withdraw, even if an agreement is not reached on the deployment of UN forces in the evacuated areas. Urquhart will depart for Beirut tomorrow and will return to Israel at the beginning of next week.

Rabin: Withdrawal To Take Place on Stipulated Date

TA171721 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated this evening that if the United Nations and Lebanon cooperate with Israel in the first stage of the Israeli withdrawal to the international border, the completion of the withdrawal will be accelerated. If they do not cooperate, however, Israel will withdraw on the stipulated date even if there is no one to hand the area over to, Rabin cautioned. The defense minister was speaking at the Labor Party Central Committee and his remarks are reported by our party affairs correspondent Amnon Nadav.

[Begin recording] [Nadav] The defense minister today had evidence, on which he did not elaborate, that the Israeli decision on a withdrawal from Lebanon took Syria and Lebanon by surprise, and that now they do not know how to react. Therefore, in direct and indirect contacts in the next few days, Israel will make it plain to them that its intention to redeploy along the international border is serious, and that Lebanon and the United Nations would be well advised to cooperate with us. According to him, the Israeli Government is doing everything possible to prevent chaos, or even a massacre, in those sections of southern Lebanon that will be evacuated. Rabin warned: If this is the case, the United Nations and Lebanon will bear the consequences.

[Rabin] One month or 5 weeks is a sufficient amount of time. After all, the Lebanese demanded that we effect a speedy withdrawal. Will it really be difficult for them to accept — in an orderly fashion and without any supplementary or other kind of conditions — their own territory? I am hopeful, although there is still no clear reply either from the United Nations or from Lebanon. If such a reply does not come, I am hereby announcing: We will leave on the stipulated date, even if there is no one to hand the area over to. [end recording]

Criteria for Withdrawal Progress

TA171226 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Jan 85 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Tali Zelinger]

[Excerpt] The IDF has unequivocally told the political echelon that the interim line, to which it will withdraw in less than 5 weeks, is not a real line, but only a line for temporary deployment. This is meant to ensure the government's approval of the continuation of the redeployment until the withdrawal to the international border.

The criteria according to which each phase in the withdrawal will be tested are:

— A change in the UNIFIL mandate which will grant the UN force more control over wider territories;
— The performance of the Lebanese Army;
— The behavior of the local population in the territories evacuated by the IDF;
— The IDF's ability to operate within the decreased area under its control and beyond, in any area in which it is required to operate.

These four criteria will test the quality and depth of the security arrangements. Sources in the security establishment stress, however, that not one of these four points will delay the progress of the withdrawal, except in extreme cases. It is also emphasized that no red lines have been defined for stopping the withdrawal.

Is was emphasized yesterday that the IDF will continue to act against attempted attacks. It was also reported that the IDF will be responsible for the population in all the areas it occupies, but will relinquish the responsibility after withdrawal. The IDF will maintain responsibility for the operation of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] only in those areas in which it will have control over the ASL.

MAPAM Welcomes Government's Withdrawal Decision

TA171616 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Jan 85

["MAPAM Announcement" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 17 Jan (ITIM) — MAPAM takes a positive view of the government's decision regarding a pullout of the IDF

troops from Lebanon to the international border. MAPAM notes with regret that this decision took so long, even after the establishment of the current government. This protraction did not enhance the security of the northern settlements or the IDF's strength.

MAPAM is opposed to a phased withdrawal and expressed its sorrow over the fact that the government's decision does not indicate the date of the withdrawal for each of the three stages it determined. MAPAM expresses its apprehension about the possibility that the first line of withdrawal might become a permanent line. In everyone's opinion, that line is unsuitable for the Army's deployment.

Bar-Lev: Galilee's Security Ensured by Decision

TA171218 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev believes that the decision to withdraw from Lebanon guarantees peace for the Galilee. He believes the southern Lebanese population and the local militias will be able to ensure that the area remains free of terrorists. The police affairs minister thinks that if the terrorists nevertheless try to take up positions in the south, the IDF will be able to handle them.

Reduction Noted in Shi'ite Recruits to ASL

TA171251 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 16 Jan 85 p 7

[Report by Ilan (Ishayyek)]

[Text] A basic training course for new recruits to the ASL has recently been canceled due to a shortage of recruits from the Shi'ite villages in the south. Sources in the IDF liaison unit for Lebanon think that the reduction in the number of recruits to the ASL from among the Shi'ite community stems from the uncertainty concerning the future of Israeli movement in Lebanon. It is thought that after a decision — one way or another — is taken by the Israeli political echelon, there will be a sharp increase in the number of recruits to the ASL from among the Shi'ites, and even the Christians.

Passenger Line From Tyre to Beirut To Open Soon

TA171243 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 16 Jan 85 p 7

[Report by Ilan (Ishayyek)]

[Text] A new passenger line running between the ports of Tyre and Beirut will start operating within the next few weeks, after the appropriate authorization is given by the IDF liaison unit for Lebanon.

The passenger line will mainly serve the Shi'ite population in southern Lebanon, which cannot use the other border crossing points in the Batir al-Shuf, since these are controlled by the Druze forces. The line will be operated once daily, round-trip. Some 250 people wishing to travel to Beirut and northern Lebanon will be able to use this line daily. Beirut port officials have already issued the Tyre ferry authorization to anchor in the number 5 pier.

The establishment of this passenger line was initiated by the liaison unit for Lebanon to help the local Shi'ite population.

Kimche Denies London TIMES Report

TA171530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche has denied that he told *THE TIMES* of London that at the end of the IDF's withdrawal, Israel would take in those Lebanese citizens who had collaborated with it. Kimche said that he had not spoken to the correspondent of *THE TIMES* of London in Geneva and that he had not made the remarks reported by the paper.

Ethiopian Jews To Not Settle in Territories

TA171038 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jan 85 p 1

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Text]Sources in the U.S. Administration have lately complained about that Ethiopian immigrants are being settled in settlements across the green line — in the West Bank and the Golan Heights.

It was learned that in a message sent to Israel, the sources have made it clear, that moving Ethiopian immigrant settlement in the territories runs contrary to the agreement which forbids the transfer of U.S. funds (which are tax-free) through the Jewish Agency to settlements across the green line.

In contacts held with the heads of the Jewish Agency, Jewish leaders from the United States have also complained about the fact that a few groups of Ethiopian immigrants, who arrived in Israel over the last few years, were given permanent housing in vacant apartments in Qiryat Arba' and Qazrin in the Golan Heights, and were also temporarily housed in the Qiryat Arba' absorption center. Concern was also expressed over the decision to give 36 apartments in the West Bank settlement of Ari'el to Ethiopian immigrants, and to send a group of immigrants to Qazrin in the Golan Heights.

It was learned that as a result of the complaints arriving from the United States, a top level meeting took place during the last few days, in which officials of the highest echelons from the government and the Jewish Agency participated. In the meeting it was decided not to move any of the 6,000 immigrants, who have recently arrived in Israel from Ethiopia in the framework of the airlift, to settlements across the green line.

A top level source yesterday made clear that the meaning of the appeal from the U.S. Administration is that if the Jewish Agency and the government do not adhere to the agreement — which explicitly forbids the transfer of money from U.S. grants or funds raised by emergency fund-raising campaigns of the Jewish communities abroad, to settlements across the green line — the U.S. Administration might go back on its promise to give $15 million

this year to help absorb the Ethiopian Jews in Israel, and might even raise difficulties in the transfer of funds donated by U.S. Jews for this purpose.

It should be noted that during a meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Immigration and Absorption held a few weeks ago, Minister Yosef Shapira suggested that the Ethiopian immigrants be moved to settlements in the West Bank. He even said at a meeting of Jewish settlers in the West Bank, that the ministerial committee reached a decision to concentrate the Ethiopian immigrants in the West Bank.

Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, the chairman of the ministerial committee, has denied the announcement by Minister Shapira, and specified that no such decision has been made. He emphasized that the committee decided to "base the absorption of the Ethiopian Jews in villages which can meet the social challenge of their absorption."

Officials Downplay U.S.-Soviet Middle East Contacts

TA171153 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Officials in Jerusalem see future American and Soviet contacts on the Middle East as merely an exchange of views by the two superpowers on a number of subjects of mutual interest. The officials told reporter David Essing: We don't, at this stage, see any practical implications for the Middle East situation.

The officials went on to say that the U.S. and Israel share the view that the multilateral approach is not the best way to proceed in the search for Middle East peace. They said: We see direct, bilateral negotiations with the Arab states as the best solution for achieving peace.

U.S. Jewish Leaders Invited To Meet Husayn, 'Arafat

TA180532 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] The president of the Jordanian airline has invited a group of U.S. Jewish leaders to meet with King Husayn in Jordan. The invitation was extended with Husayn's approval.

Our correspondent in the United States Razi Barqay has learned that the Jewish leaders have received Shim'on Peres' blessing for the trip. Those invited include Philip Klutznick, a secretary in the Carter administration, Rita Hauser, and Arthur Hertzberg, all of whom belong to the liberal wing of the Jewish establishment in the United States.

Our correspondent reports that an offer was also made to the group to meet with Palestinian representatives in Jordan, and perhaps with Yasir 'Arafat as well. However, it seems that when Prime Minister Peres gave his blessing to the idea, he was unaware of the attempt to arrange a meeting between Jewish leaders and 'Arafat.

It is still unclear when the visit will take place.

Further on Invitation

TA180743 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Report from Washington by 'Oded Granot]

[Text] It is Jordanian Prince Hasan who stands behind the invitation extended to the U.S. Jewish leaders to visit Amman. The invitation itself is unprecedented, since reference is to an organized group and not to individuals, and the intention is apparently to enlist members of the U.S Jewish community to serve Jordanian policy and the solution of the Palestinian problem.

The invitation talks of a symposium on the issue of the Jewish-Arab conflict, which will be held in the framework of the Institute for International Relations. The institute is a quasi-public Jordanian body set up by Prince Hasan, to give a momentum to the Hashemite Kingdom's foreign policy. Those invited include well-known Jewish leaders such as Philip Klutznick, one of the World Jewish Congress leaders, and Rita Hauser, who is competing for the position of U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Most of the others are known for their leftist views, and some are even inclined to support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Most of those invited belong to the International Organization for Mideast Peace, a somewhat expanded version of Outlook.

I have learned that some of the personages invited to the symposium have decided to turn down the invitation, on the basis of the assumption that the Jordanians intend to invite PLO members to attend. The fear is that the Jordanians will take advantage of the presence of the Jewish leaders in the symposium, and their meeting with PLO members, to split the U.S. Jewish community, as well as to influence the U.S. Administration to hold a direct dialogue with the PLO.

Others have accepted the invitation and announced they intend to leave for Amman. Philip Klutznick told me yesterday: I said I am prepared to go only under certain conditions, and only if I learn of the precise purpose behind the symposium. Besides, I think that the Jordanians have actually canceled the entire idea.

Commission of Inquiry on Shares Collapse Appointed

TA171202 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1147 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] The president of the Supreme Court, Justice Me'ir Shamgar, today announced the appointment of the members of the commission of inquiry on the collapse of the bank shares.

Supreme Court Justice Moshe Baisky was appointed chairman of the committee, which also includes Vardimus Zailer, a Jerusalem District court judge; Ze'ev Hirsch, an economist from Tel Aviv University; Prof Marshal Sarnat, a specialist on the stock market and shares; and jurist Prof Daniyel Friedman.

The commission has been requested to investigate the collapse of the bank shares in view of the State Comptroller's report on this matter, draw conclusions, and issue recommendations.

Disagreements Mark Second Package Deal Talks
TA180555 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] The disagreements between the Histadrut and the Finance Ministry are continuing, following last night's meeting at the Prime Minister's Office on a second package deal. The employers demand that prices of all products be raised monthly by between 5 to 8 percent. The Histadrut demands that the price increases not exceed 5 percent. Our correspondent Asher Schwartz reports that the Histadrut secretary general is opposed to the Finance Ministry's proposal of a steep hike in the prices of basic commodities. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that the head of the Coordinating Bureau of the Economic Organizations, Eli Hurvitz, demands that the government immediately present a comprehensive economic recovery plan, implement the budget cut, and lower the interest rates. The discussions over the second package deal are continuing.

The Finance Ministry will be required, as early as this month, to submit a supplementary budget for the current fiscal year. Our economic affairs correspondent Gadi Sukenik says it seems that the government has deviated from its budget by about $0.5 billion, although efforts to cut the budget have been made throughout the year. The deviation is mainly a result of an increase in the subsidies for the basic commodities. On Sunday, the finance minister will submit to the Cabinet the framework for next year's budget.

Foreign Currency Reserves Continue To Drop
TA171937 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Israel's foreign currency reserves are continuing to drop. Our correspondent 'Oded Shahar has learned that this month, too, the government will have to draw on its reserves to make payments in foreign currency. If Israel does not raise large foreign currency loans or cut its expenses, the reserves are expected to drop by $200 million and will total only $2.4 billion.

Our correspondent points out that Israel has lost over half its foreign currency reserves in the last 7 months, and it seems that without additional emergency aid from the United States, foreign currency reserves will continue to drop in the coming months as well.

IAES Conference Opens on African Armies
AB171405 Dakar PANA in French 1004 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Libreville, 17 Jan (AGP/PANA) — Julien Mpouho Epigat, Gabonese minister of national defense and veterans affairs in charge of public security, representing the head of state and supreme commander of the Army, opened the deliberations of the second colloquy of the African Institute for Strategic Studies [IAES] in Libreville on Wednesday on the topic "African Armed Forces."

Mr Mpouho said: This colloquy, which is far from being a mere "intelligence game" for technicians, is justified by the deepest "need" that underlies our "existence, our development, our progress, and our future." The IAES sponsored its first colloquy in 1983 on "Security in Africa." The deliberations of this second colloquy, which is attended by lecturers, research officers, and other specialists in this field, will last 3 days and will enable political scientists, strategists, and civilian and military officials to address themselves notably to the questions of strategy, tactics, and other specific problems of African armed forces.

ALGERIA

Iranian Under Secretary Arrives 17 Jan

LD180009 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Iran's Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam arrived in Algeria this evening on a visit to Algeria. In a brief statement at the airport he said among other things: It gives me pleasure to visit Algeria, the land of Islam and revolution. I am carrying a special message from the minister of foreign affairs to Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister of foreign affairs, and I am also conveying President 'Ali Khamene'i's greetings to President Chadli Bendjedid and to the fraternal Algerian people.

The Iranian official was received at the airport by Brother Sharif Derbal, assistant general secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and the Iranian ambassador in Algeria.

Joint Communique on Brahimi Visit to Greece

PM171251 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 11-12 Jan 85 p 3

[APS dispatch: "For Peace and Cooperation in the Mediterranean"]

[Text] Athens — Following the visit which FLN Politburo candidate member and Prime Minister Abdelhamib Brahimi has just paid to Greece, a joint Algerian-Greek communique was released Thursday. Here is the text of the communique:

At the invitation of the Greek prime minister, Mr Andreas Papandreou, the prime minister of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, Mr Abdelhamid Brahimi, paid an official visit to Greece on 9-10 January 1985 at the head of a delegation which included ministers and high-ranking officials.

Mr Abdelhamid Brahimi was received by His Excellency Constantin Karamanlis, president of Greece, to whom he conveyed a message from His Excellency Chadli Benjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and secretary general of the FLN.

On this occasion the president of Greece renewed the invitation to the president of the Democratic and People's Republic of Algeria to pay an official visit to Greece.

Abdelhamid Brahimi had in-depth talks with Andreas Papandreou. During these talks, which took place in an atmosphere of mutual friendship and trust reflecting the excellent relations between the two countries, the two sides devoted particular attention to cooperation between their two countries and to an examination of the major international issues of shared interest. The two sides also had an exchange of views on the evolution of the world situation as a whole.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the development of relations of cooperation and trade between their two countries and reasserted their shared desire bring these relations up to the level of their political relations. The accord on economic, scientific, and technological cooperation signed during Mr Papandreou's 1982 visit to Algeria and the other accords reached between the two countries form the foundation for the expansion of their cooperation.

In this connection the two sides reaffirmed their complete willingness to do their utmost to further promote their cooperation in the economic, scientific, technological, industrial, and cultural fields and to diversify the trade between the two countries. Within this context the two sides instructed the joint committee for intergovernmental cooperation to continue its efforts and to extend its activities based on the two peoples' friendship and mutual interests.

The two sides carried out an evaluation of the international situation and in this connection had an exchange of views on matters of shared interest. They expressed their keen anxiety over the current deterioration of international relations, particularly the rising tensions [words illegible] of conflicts, the acceleration of the arms race, the exacerbation of the world economic crisis, whose most severe effects hit the developing countries, and the stagnation of the North-South dialogue.

Stability and Progress

Recognizing the close interdependence of the issues of, peace, security, and disarmament, the two sides stressed the need for all states to step up their efforts to ameliorate the present tension in international relations by embarking on an effective process of real disarmament in order to facilitate detente, development, and cooperation.

They reasserted their resolute attachment to and respect for the principles of the peaceful solution of disputes throughout the world and the independence, sovereignty, nonintervention, equality, and territorial integrity of all countries. They condemned the use or threat of force in international relations.

The two sides declared themselves convinced of the important role played by the Nonaligned Movement for the sake of peace and international security, based on the rights of all peoples in a world of stability and progress.

The two sides reasserted that peace and security in Europe are closely linked to security in the Mediterranean and stressed the need to transform the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and cooperation benefiting all its peoples. They expressed the belief that security and peace in this region demand that just solutions be found to all conflicts and that hotbeds of tension be eliminated.

With regard to the Mideast problem the two sides expressed their concern over the continuation of the crisis, which poses a threat to peace in the region and throughout the world. They again expressed their attachment to the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and an independent state, and reasserted their total support for the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative in the struggle to regain their inalienable rights. They point out that such a solution cannot take place without the PLO's full and complete participation or without the occupying forces' withdrawal from all occupied Arab

territories. In this connection the two sides pronounced themselves in favor of convening, under UN auspices, an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

The Greek side emphasized its intention of further consolidating its traditionally friendly relations with the Arab nation with a view to setting an example of fraternal cooperation at both the regional and the world level. The Algerian side expressed its particular appreciation of Greece's resolute and constant support for the Arab cause.

The two sides stressed the need to restore Lebanon's independence, its complete sovereignty over all Lebanese territory [apparent line drop] independence, territorial integrity, and the consolidation of state authority.

The two sides expressed their deep anxiety at the continuation of the war and the lack of progress in the quest for a peaceful solution to the Iran-Iraq conflict. They expressed their belief that the settlement of the conflict must be achieved by means of negotiations between the two sides.

Support for Just Causes

The two sides stress their total support for the UN secretary general's efforts for a just, peaceful, and viable solution to the Cyprus question based on the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and nonalignment of the Republic of Cyprus, in line with the UNGA and UN Security Council resolutions. Such a solution implies, among other things, the withdrawal of all occupation forces and the safeguarding of the basic rights of all citizens of the Republic of Cyprus.

Examining the situation in the Mediterranean, particularly in the Aegean, the two sides expressed their over persisting tensions in this region. They stressed the need for all states to observe international law, the principles and provisions of the UN Charter, and the rules of good-neighborliness.

The two sides expressed profound anxiety at the serious situation in southern Africa, the policy of racial segregation practiced in South Africa, the continued occupation of Namibia, and the threats to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of South Africa's neighboring states.

They reasserted their condemnation of apartheid. They stressed the need for the international community to assert the need to accelerate Namibia's accession to independence, on the basis of full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435. They also called for an end to the threats and intimidation directed at South Africa's neighboring states.

The two sides reasserted their support for the independence of the people of the Western Sahara. They welcomed the relevant OAU decisions aimed at bringing a just solution to this conflict and the resolution adopted by the 39th UNGA session on this issue.

The two sides examined the international economic situation and asserted their serious concern about its contined deterioration, particularly its effect on Third World countries. In this connection they stressed the gravity of the economic situation in Africa and issued an urgent appeal to the international community to shoulder its responsibilities by making a real contribution to the recovery of Africa's economies. In this connection they stressed the pressing need for large-scale international action to deal with the consequences of the drought and famine assailing Africa.

The two sides reiterated their keen interest in the evolution of the situation in Central America. They agreed that the problems of that region cannot be resolved by military means but only through the quest for a political solution stemming from the region itself and based on the principles of nonintervention and inviolabiity of borders. In this connection they fully support the initiative of the Contadora Group.

The two sides expressed their suport for the action of the United Nations and its secretary general. They agreed that this universal organization can fulfill its task only if all members scrupulously observe its charter and resolutions.

The prime minister of the Democratic and People's Republic of Algeria and the Algerian delegation thanked the Greek Government and people and especially His Excellency Andreas Papandreou for the cordial welcome given to them and for the consideration which they received during their stay in Greece.

LIBYA

FLN's Messaadia Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi 16 Jan

LD172332 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, was received yesterday [words indistinct] by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Today Messaadia spoke with the chief of staff of the Libyan Armed Forces, Abu Bakir Yunis Jabir. Messaadia left the Libyan capital this evening.

MAURITANIA

President Receives AID Official, ICDCS Delegates

AB171205 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] The head of state yesterday morning received George Johnson, United States Agency for International Development [USAID] administrator for Africa. On leaving the presidency, Mr Johnson disclosed to our reporter, (Abdanad Zei), that he discussed relations between USAID and Mauritania and the possibilities of his organization coming to the aid of drought victims. He said he would like to take advantage of his visit to Mauritania to attend the 20th ministerial session of the Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel [ICDCS] and to visit the interior of the country in order to inspect some projects financed by the USAID. The meeting took place in the presence of His Excellency Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Van, the director of the Europe and America Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The head of state also received at 1030 the ministers of the ICDCS states participating in the 20th ministerial session of the organization. Our minister of rural development, Messmoud Ould Belkair, attended this audience and the subsequent meeting with the Burkinabe and Cape Verdian rural development ministers. In their statements after the audience, the two ministers said they delivered to the CMSN chairman and head of state messages from their respective heads of state, Captain Thomas Sankara and President Aristides Pereira, adding that they took advantage of the occasion to discuss with the CMSN chairman issues of cooperation.

The head of state's last audience was the one he granted at 1400 to the Gambian rural development minister, who is also the ICDCS coordinator. After the audience, Saihou Sabally said he examined with the head of state the excellent relations existing between our two countries, as well as the situation of the Gambian community in Mauritania. As the ICDCS coordinator, I discussed with the head of state the situation of the member countries of our organization, the Gambian minister said.

Report on ICDCS Ministerial Council Meeting

AB171330 Paris AFP in French 0827 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Nouakchott, 17 Jan (AFP) — An extraordinary ministerial council meeting will be convened in order to review the organization and running of the Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (ICDCS), according to a communique issued Wednesday in Nouakchott at the end of the 29th ordinary session of the council members which includes eight countries, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Chad.

This extraordinary meeting to examine the above-mentioned issue will be held following a meeting of experts of member countries scheduled to take place in 3 months in order to make proposals.

The need to strengthen the action of the ICDCS, created in 1974 after the great drought that hit the Sahelian zone in the seventies, was underlined by most delegates representing both members and fund donors attending the Nouakchott ministerial conference.

On the activities and work schedules of the Executive Secretariat and specialized institutions of the ICDCS, the communique said the council stressed the need to give priority to the consolidation of projects that have already been implemented. It called also for the coordination of aid packages in order to promote agropastoral production and environmental protection. In this regard the council called on members and cooperation agencies to draw up a system for the joint administration of counterparty funds for food aid, which would result in linking emergency aid with development aid.

The council adopted a revised strategy in the struggle against drought and development in the Sahel which takes into account both the need to promote an overall approach and the evolution of the economic and environmental crises which have hit the Sahelian countries. In addition the council of ministers called on the world community to support the Sahelian countries' efforts to restore their environmental balance.

On the possibilities for the development of cooperation between Arab and Sahelian countries, the council called on the executive secretary to pursue his contacts with the Arab Bank for the Economic Development of Africa in order to work out an appropriate framework for direct cooperation.

Finally, the council adopted the organization's 1985 budget, which has been fixed at 349,902,858 CFA francs. The next ordinary ICDCS ministerial meeting is scheduled to take place in Dakar in January 1986.

French Foreign Minister Makes Stop-Over Visit

LD172209 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] French Minister for External Relations Roland Dumas stopped over today in Nouakchott on his way to Abidjan on his first visit to Africa since his appointment as head of French diplomacy.

During his short stop in the capital, the French minister was received by Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Ould Minnih, member of the Military Committee for National Salvation and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and the French ambassador accredited to our country.

In a statement to our colleague Abdallah Ould Zayn, the French minister of external relations said French-Mauritanian relations are extremely good. He added that the French Foreign Ministry considers the relations as frank and clear and based on mutual respect for the policies and independence of each country. The French minister said that in spite of the fact that his appointment to his new position is still less than 1 month old, he has been able during this short period to study the file of French-Mauritanian relations and he is aware of the efforts to raise their standard within the framework of serving the interests of both countries.

MOROCCO

Tunisian Foreign Minister Meets King, Issues Statement

LD171802 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1650 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II today received at the royal palace in Marrakech, Beji Caid Essebsi, the Tunisian minister of foreign affairs; the Moroccan minister of foreign affairs, Dr Abdelouahid Belkeziz; his majesty's adviser, Ahmed Reda Guedira; and the Tunisian ambassador to Rabat, Salheddine 'Abdellah.

After the meeting the Tunisian minister of foreign affairs issued the following statement: I was honored to meet His Majesty King Hassan II and to convey to him the greetings of his brother, the Supreme Combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, and the sincere feelings carried by his excellency for the Moroccan monarch and the fraternal Moroccan people.

The meeting consolidated the traditions of consultation between the two leaders, and it afforded an opportunity to review the horizons for developing Tunisian-Moroccan cooperation and to analyze the current situation in the region.

I confirmed to his majesty the commitment of the president to the consolidation of the ties of fraternity and amicability between them and between the Tunisian and Moroccan peoples, and also the president's continuous efforts to establish harmony and understanding in the Greater Arab Maghreb, which we want to secure from all dangers, and to direct it with all its abilities to the construction of the joint destiny. From the Moroccan monarch I received the traditional response of sincere wishes in consolidating the ties of cooperation and integration between our two peoples.

Beji Caid Essebsi continued by saying: The meeting also included debate on the current situation in the region. I found that his majesty has the same determination as the Supreme Combatant to work toward the materialization of the aspirations of the peoples of the Greater Arab Maghreb in solidarity and unity.

What gives us hope, the Tunisian minister of foreign affairs said, is that important political moves being made in the region indicate that all the Maghreb sides wish to adopt dialogue as the basis for dealing with problems and disputes. Tunisia is determined to continue its efforts to achieve the success of these moves and overcome obstacles in the way of harmony and understanding.

His majesty asked me to convey to the Supreme Combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, his greetings and wishes for good health and a long life; he stressed to me the strong bonds connecting him with Tunisia and its leaders.

Security Wall Construction Completed

LD172058 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] On finishing the works concerning the extension of the security wall for the military regions of each of (Oued Dar'a) and Oued Saguia, Colonel Major Abdelaziz Bebbani, commander of the southern region has submitted to his majesty the supreme commander and chief of general staff of the Royal Armed forces the following report:

You Majesty, Supreme Commander and Chief of General Staff of the Royal Armed Forces: I am greatly honored to give you the good news of the completion of the works on the extension of the defense line for the military regions of (Oued Dar'a) and Oued Saguia. These works, which commenced on 4 December 1984 in accordance with your majesty's instructions, were completed on 15 January 1985.

The new security wall, which was constructed in accordance with Royal Decree No 5004 on 12 November 1984 within the framework of the preliminary instructions of Operations Nos 14 and 14A, extends for approximately 400 km and passes through El-Borj over the heights of (Jbel Ouarkziz), (Garat Larbi), Leksab, [name indistinct], Aadme Rieh, Sueiah, La'zai, (Ouedi Benfakkah), Lemcaiteb, as far as (Lebrouz).

The operations, carried out by the units commissioned to build the new security wall, were punctuated with a number of skirmishes and clashes of major importance. The enemy usually tried to obstruct any advance toward the south. The equipment pushed forward by the mercenaries amounted to 3 motorized corps and about 100 tanks and vehicles, supported by 1 artillery division equipped with 122-mm guns and rocket launchers and 120-mm and 160-mm mortars. Nevertheless, and owing to the self-sacrifice of the intervention forces and their ability to maneuver, they were able to inflict heavy losses on the enemy who made his remnants retreat at each attempt and flee toward the east and southeast.

During these clashes it became quite clear that the mercenaries avoided any close combat and any close contact with the intervention forces of the Royal Armed Forces. That is why they were planting extensive minefields along the path of the units' advance. They sheltered behind these fields when they were defeated. These minefields obstructed the attacks of the intervention forces of the Royal Armed Forces and gave the mercenaries enough time to retreat and escape.

The main clashes took place in (El Ajz) on 22 December 1984, in (Idam Rih) and (Ouedi Benamirah) on 24 December 1984, (Ouedi El Sidiriyah) on 31 December 1984, in (Lazel) and (Ras Ouedi Benamirah) and (Ghararat El Kharsah) on 1 January 1985. The results of these battles were the subject of consecutive reports submitted to Your Majesty after each operation.

The new security wall, which extends along the borders of Algeria in the part south of Jbel Ouarkziz, and on the western borders with Mauritania for 50 km, enabled the inclusion of an additional area of 17,000 square kilometers in the secured areas, and the inclusion of Mahbes, (Khadshiyah), [names indistinct], and the whole of Ouedi Saguia El Hamra in the secured region.

SUDAN

Numayri Confirms Death Sentences of Taha, Others

JN171358 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Jan (SUNA) – After taking cognizance of the trial of Taj al-Din 'Abd al-Razzaq and other defendents by the Criminal Court of Appeals in the national capital, and of Article 73 of the Constitution; and in accordance with Article 246 of the 1983 criminal law, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has confirmed the sentence death by hanging for Mahmud Muhammad Taha. The presidential order also confirmed the sentences and punishments issued against the other defendents and amended the grace period to 3 days as of today, Thursday.

The Omdurman Criminal Court No 4 under Judge Hasan Ibrahim al-Mihlawi issued the death sentence on five defendents from the so-called Republican Brothers Organization. The defendents have the right to repent and return to Islam before the sentence is carried out.

The verdict of the Criminal Court was brought before the Criminal Court of Appeals under Dr al-Mukashifi Taha al-Kabbash. The court confirmed the verdict and the death sentence by hanging for Mahmud Muhammad Taha provided that he not be prayed upon or buried in a Muslim grave. His estate will be distributed among Muslims after payment of any outstanding debts.

The court also confirmed the verdict and death sentence on the other four defendents, provided that they be given one month to repent and return to Islam following the example of Caliph 'Ali ibn Abi Talib. A group of Muslim scholars will be sent to persuade them to follow Islam.

The court decided that the Republican Brothers was an infidel and renegade faction that must be dealt with in the same manner as other infidel groups. All books and publications of Mahmud Muhammad Taha and the Republican Brothers shall be seized from all libraries and destroyed to prevent circulation and printing. The activities and meetings of the group will be banned throughout the country.

The Criminal Court of Appeals presented briefs of the case to the president who confirmed the verdict.

The four other defendents convicted are: Taj al-Din 'Abd al-Razzaq, Khalid Babakir, Muhammad Salim Ba'shar, and 'Abd al-Latif 'Umar Hasaballah.

Taha Executed

JN180932 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Jan (SUNA) — The death sentence on the convict Mahmud Muhammad Taha was carried out here today, statement by the prison headquarters said today. The statement said the Taha was hanged at Kober prison at 10 pm (0800 GMT.)

Taha had been convicted to death by the Criminal Court No 4 and the sentence was upheld by the Criminal Appeal Court and finally by the president of the republic yesterday.

The court has said Taha had been found guilty under the Article No 96 of the Penal Code Act, Article 20 of the State Security Act and Article [no number given] of the State Security Act, and Article 3 of the judiciary principles. The criminal appeal court upheld the sentence and the president as well confirmed the death penalty under Article 73 of the permanent Constitution and Article 246 of the Criminal Proceedings Act.

The hanging was attended by Chief Justice [name indistinct] legal affairs minister in the Presidency, chairman of the Criminal Court of Appeal, chairman of Criminal Court No 4 and the general director of the prisons.

After carrying out the sentence the chairman of the Criminal Court of Appeal Al-Mukashifi Taha al-Kabbash stated that a group of Moslem theologists will meet the other four convicts to convince them to desert their heretical beliefs to save their lives.

The Criminal Court No 4 had convicted four of Taha's followers to death after found them guilty under Article 96 acquisition of leaflets containing malicious communique against the state. The leaflets, as well, were said to be aimed at undermining the government and calling for sedition among the nation and its national unity. The group of four were given three days by President Numayri to repent or to be headed as well.

Handling the case, the Criminal Court of Appeal deliberated the ideas of and beliefs of the four and said they were splinter group who quit the consensus of the Islamic nation. The court concluded that the verdict about their recantation was right and came in conformity [with] the Article 458 of the penal code combined with the Article 3 of the judiciary principles. The court offered them a month of respite during which to be convinced by a group of Islamic theologists [to] repent and avert the death sentence.

The Court of Appeal upheld the verdict of Criminal Court on hanging of Taha and that he will not be buried at the Moslems, not to be prayed on his life considering his properties as a haul for the Moslems. [sentence as received] The court convicted the four followers to death, gave them a month of respite during which [they can] repent and return to the Islamic fold.

The court considered the Republican Brothers as heretic faction and that to be dealt with as the other heretic factions. The court ordered confiscation of their books, banned the circulation of these book and its [word indistinct]. It also banned the gathering of the Republican Brothers all over the country. President yesterday confirmed the verdict of the Appeal Court on Taha and his followers.

More on Defendants, Death Sentence

JN181034 Khartoum SUNA in English 0950 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Jan (SUNA) — President Numayri yesterday confirmed a death penalty passed on five members of the illegal Republican Brothers Party for opposing the application of Islamic shari'a in Sudan.

A criminal court last week sentenced the five to death but said the sentence would be lifted if the defendants repented before it was confirmed by an appeal court and President Numayri.

The defendants, led by party leader Mahmud Muhammad Taha, 76 years old, were accused of preparing and distributing a leaflet calling for abolition of Islamic shari'a imposed in Sudan September 1983, disturbing public security, provoking opposition against the government and reestablishing a banned political party.

On Monday, a criminal court of appeal chaired by Judge Al-Mukashifi Taha al-Kabbash endorsed the sentence and declared that Taha and his four followers were found guilty of heresy and of opposing application of shari'a. It confirmed the outright hanging to death of Mahmud Muhammad Taha and ruled that his property be confiscated, no Moslem prayers be performed at his dead body, which it ordered should not be buried at Moslem graveyards.

The Court of Appeal confirmed the death sentence on the other four but allowed them a month for repentance during which they would see prominent Islamic scholars and if after that they "insisted on their way of thinking they should also be hanged to death." It also ruled that all books of Taha be burned and all his followers at large be regarded as heretics.

The Court of Appeal also ruled the banning of all the activities of the Republican Brothers who, despite the fact that their organization was illegal, used to appear in the streets, distribute books and leaflets and preach the public on their beliefs.

In a decree issued yesterday, President Numayri confirmed the death sentence on Mahmud Muhammad Taha and his four colleagues but shortened the repentance period given for the four to only three days as of yesterday. According to the president's decree, Taha will be hanged to death but his four colleagues could save their necks if they repented within three days.

The other four defendents are Taj al-Din 'Abd al-Razzaq, 35; Khalid Babakir Hamzah, 22; Muhammad Salim Ba'shar, 39; and 'Abd al-Latif 'Umar Hasaballah, 51.

In its proceedings, the Criminal Court of Appeal has recalled that an Islamic shari'a court in 1968 ruled that Taha is a heretic.

The constituent council of the Islamic World League in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, sent a message to the minister of religious affairs and endowments in 1974 saying that it found that Mahmud Muhammad Taha a heretic and should be treated as such and all his books should be confiscated, it added.

The proceedings read that shortly afterwards the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowments also received a letter from the Egyptian Azhar authority saying that Azhar Moslem scholars had concluded that Mahmud Muhammad Taha was an "outright heretic" and asking the Sudanese authorities to "take the necessary measures against this atheistic thinking," and to work for "terminating this subversive activity in your Moslem nation."

'Outlaws' Receive Air Support From Unnamed Sources

JN180944 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Khartoum, Rabi Thani 26/18 Jan. (SUNA) — The Army has accused foreign circles which it did not name of providing air support to outlaws in southern Sudan from neighboring airports it will mane later on. An authoritative Army source said an Army force was dispatched to an outlaws camp at Winji Pool area following information on the infiltration of a group of outlaws from the Lafon area north of Torit in the Equatoria Region of southern Sudan, to the Sudanese-Ugandan border.

"Our forces got engaged on a severe battle with the outlaws from Wednesday noon till yesterday morning and inflicted heavy losses on them in spite of their outnumbering", the source said. "Our forces were surprised by the interference of two enemy planes which attacked our forces by rockets and damaged some vehicles", he said. "Two helicopters were also spotted assisting the outlaws in the area south of Winji Pool mountains", he added. He said eleven Army troops were killed and twenty five were wounded.

"It has been proved to our forces in eastern Equatoria that some foreign circles provide air support to the outlaws from neighboring airports which will be disclosed [later] on," SUNA quoted the sources as saying.

SPLA Radio: 54 Officials Defect to SPLA

EA171610 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Fifty-four government officials, including the chief executive officer of the district, have defected from Yirol to Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA]. It is to be recalled that the SPLA forces in Lakes Province attacked and captured the town of retaliation and defense of the innocent citizens who were massacred by the government troops. The SPLA later tactically withdrew for other missions.

AL-SIYASAH: New Opposition Group Formed

GF171650 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 16 Jan 85 p 1, 20

['Abd al-Rahman al-Amin dispatch from London]

[Text] *AL-SIYASAH* has learned for the first time about the formation of the Sudanese Popular Resistant Front. The front includes representatives of the Democratic Alliance Party, supporters of Imam al-Hadi, and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in the south in addition to the free officers and the national officers organizations.

Sources affirmed that the parties of the new front conducted a comprehensive dialogue in Tripoli on 21 September 1984. The dialogue continued the next day and reached a six-point agreement in Addis Ababa. *AL-SIYASAH* learned that the southern delegation stipulated that the confrontation charter should include the total adherence of the other parties to the principles of social justice, freedom, equality, and national unity in addition to another article stipulating the nonreconciliation with the regime whatever the reasons might be.

In addition to these two points, the program of the new front — which is scheduled to be announced next week — consists of the following:

1. The necessity of using military and political power during the confrontation.
2. The necessity of forming an active Sudanese opposition.
3. The necessity of unifying the efforts for achieving a just liberation and national unity.
4. Solidarity with Palestinian and African liberation movements.

It is not yet known whether the rest of the opposition parties such as the supporters of Al-Sadiq al-Mahadi, the Communists, and the Ba'thists would agree to join the new front.

TUNISIA

Iranian Delegation Meets With State Secretary

LD172216 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Mr Mahmoud Mestiri, secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, met today at noon with an Iranian delegation, which is currently visiting Tunisia and is led by Mr Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Esham, under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of political affairs, and exchanged views about issues of mutual interest, especially the Middle East problem and the issues confronting the Islamic world. The Iranian delegation also talked about bilateral relations.

ETHIOPIA

Labor Minister Receives U.S. Congressman

EA171841 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Comrade Berhanu Baye, member of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of labor and social affairs, met and held talks with U.S. Congressman Mr William Nelson in his office this afternoon.

Comrade Berhanu briefed the congressman on the struggle waged by the Ethiopian people since the outbreak of the revolution to deflect attacks by internal and external reactionary forces and to preserve the country's unity. He also explained to Mr William Nelson the numerous steps that have been taken simultaneously to fulfill the social and economic needs of society. In addition, he briefed the U.S. congressman on the damaging effects of the current drought in Ethiopia, and on behalf of the Ethiopian Government and people thanked the people of America for their past and present aid to our compatriots hit by drought.

For his part, Mr William Nelson stated that he will brief the American Congress and people as appropriate on his observations during his visit of Ethiopia and on what he has been told.

Present on the occasion were Comrade Goshu Wolde, WPE Central Committee member and minister of foreign affairs; Mr David Korn, charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy to revolutionary Ethiopia; Comrade Berhanu Deresa, deputy commissioner of the relief and rehabilitation commission; and guests accompanying Mr William Nelson.

Trade Union Talks With Czechoslovakia Held

EA171838 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Talks on finding ways to strengthen the relationship between the All-Ethiopia Trade Union [AETU] and the Czechoslovak trade union were held at the AETU office this afternoon. The discussion was held between members of the AETU administration headed by Comrade Tegene Gemechu, AETU deputy chairman, and the delegation headed by Comrade Viliam Kozik, secretary of the Czechoslovak Central Council of Trade Unions.

During the talks, the implementation of the agreement signed by the two unions in Prague last year was assessed. Most of it was found to have been implemented and to be showing satisfactory results. Talks were also held on issues which will be covered by this agreement. AETU Deputy Secretary Comrade Yohanes Teferi gave briefings at the meeting.

Comrade Viliam Kozik said that the relations between the two unions have been strengthened and added that he would make efforts for future cooperation in all fields. Comrade Libor Pecl, ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia in revolutionary Ethiopia, attended the talks.

Rebel Radio on Impoundment of Australian Aid Ship

EA171210 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Ethiopia — The Addis Ababa regime has impounded an Australian ship carrying food aid to the Tigre Peoples' Liberation Front-Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement at Aseb port. This action, which has angered the world at large, took place when an Australian ship with a cargo of food, clothing, and medicine was unloading relief aid to Ethiopia at Aseb port. The remaining food and other aid material was destined for drought-stricken people in Eritrea and Tigray. Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden has pointed out that the Australian Government has taken diplomatic steps for the ship's release. The whole world is anxiously awaiting the Addis Ababa regime's response.

EPLF Claims Enemy Force Destroyed, 200 Killed

EA171240 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Southwestern Seraye: The heroic Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] fighters have yesterday destroyed an enemy force which was stationed at (Tikul). Our gallant fighters attacked the enemy force at dawn and completely wiped it out after 5 hours of fierce fighting.

A reinforcement unit dispatched from (Maidema) was ambushed by our forces and forced to retreat after being dealt a heavy blow. Two hundred Dergue soldiers were killed, 166 others wounded, and 65 captured, while 238 medium and light weapons, two 82-mm mortars, and other military equipment were captured by our forces.

TANZANIA

Zanzibar Chief Minister, State Minister Praise Union

EA171846 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Dar es Salaam — The Zanzibar Chief Minister, Ndugu Seif Shariff Hamad, has said the people of Tanzania were happy with the union of the isles and the mainland. He attributed this to the excellent part played by the party and government leaders in correctly educating the people on the true nature, aspirations and problems of the union. In an interview with the BBC, Ndugu Hamad said only rumormongers and few other misguided and disgruntled elements still question the value and relevance of the union. On the economic problems facing Tanzania, the chief minister said these were basically the same as those facing other developing countries.

Earlier, the minister of state in the President's office responsible for Cabinet affairs, Ndugu Amir Jamal, said the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar was a natural and irreversible historical development binding together its peoples with a common heritage. He told the BBC that the union was very much a living organism, adding that there was nothing that could derail Tanzanians off their unity track.

The interviews with Ndugu Hamad and Ndugu Jamal will form part of a 45-minute speech documentary program on Tanzania to be aired by the BBC on the sixth and eighth of next month. A two-man BBC team is in the country since last Monday and has already also held interviews with the finance minister, Ndugu Cleopa Msuya, and the planning and economic affairs minister, Ndugu Kighoma Malima.

Foreign Minister Receives Finnish Counterpart
EA171604 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1000 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Dar es Salaam — Minister of Foreign Affairs Ndugu Benjamin Mkapa has been holding talks in Dar es Salaam with visiting Finnish Foreign Minister Ndugu Paavo Vayrynen. The Finnish minister for foreign affairs arrived in Dar es Salaam last night for a 4-day official visit to Tanzania. The talks focused on various international issues, including southern Africa, and bilateral cooperation. Ndugu Vayrynen is scheduled to meet with Minister for Finance Ndugu Cleopa Msuya, and call on Prime Minister Ndugu Salim and President Nyerere.

The visiting Finnish minister leaves for Libaha tomorrow to inspect the Finnish built (?Farmac) tractor assembly plant before flying to Zanzibar tomorrow, where he will call on Vice President Ndugu Ali Hasan Mwinyi. Reports from Zanzibar said the Finnish minister will also hold talks with officials of Zanzibar's Ministry of Marines [as heard], Tourism, and Forestry.

CAMEROON

Briefs

Envoy to Senegal — His Excellency Jerome Mendouga, Cameroon first ambassador to Senegal resident in Dakar, today presented his letters of credence to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. [Excerpt] [*Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Jan 85 AB*]

CHAD

Famine Relief Problems, Tasks Described

AB162255 Paris AFP in French 1322 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Ndjamena, 16 Jan (AFP) — All the major international relief organizations are today rushing to the rescue of Chad, which is also suffering from drought and famine, just as Sudan and Ethiopia. These organizations are established in Ndjamena on the Colona d'Ornano Avenue, along the Chari River, the level of which goes down 1 and 1/2 centimeters each day, as if to remind them that time is running out.

The United Nations came in force with the World Food Program — charged with coordinating humanitarian action — the FAO, the UNICEF, and the High Commissioner for Refugees. Bilateral aid has arrived — from France, Switzerland, the U.S. AID — as well as aid from nongovernmental organizations, like Catholic Relief, the Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders, and the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere, who have also set up their headquarters in the Chadian capital.

Jo Scalesi, an American working with the World Food Program, has estimated that there are about 30 humanitarian organizations now in the country, and he estimates that they have nearly 500 expatriates working for them.

This real army, whose peaceful mission is to save human lives, is confronted with "a very difficult situation, even a critical one," according to Jamie Wickens. This glib but precise American is impressive with his cold logic and his love for details. He is in charge of the World Food Program branch here. In an office located on the second floor of the building housing UN offices, and where files and reports are piled high, this strategist of the fight against hunger explains without exaggeration the seriousness of the situation.

Rainfalls were catastrophic in Chad in 1984. With a tropical climate and an annual rainfall ranging from 500 to 800 millimeters, the Kanem, Batha, and Biltine regions, which are situated just under the 16th Parallel, have now become semidesert areas with a rainfall ranging from 200 to 300 millimeters per year. The levels of the Chari and Logne Rivers have never been so low. Lake Chad is reduced to a pocket of water and the Lake Fitri in the Batha region has simply disappeared. The crops have died in the Batha and Kanem regions and the situation is described as very "fragile" in the central regions of Ouaddai, Guera, Chari Baguirmi, and Salamat. "The cereal deficit will amount to 300,000 tons in 1985," Jamie Wickens said. "We need 140,000 tons of food aid to ensure the vital minimum of the most threatened peoples at the most crucial moment of the famine, between July and September, just before the harvests."

In order to prevent Chad from becoming another Ethiopia, where according to Jamie Wickens international aid did not come in time, humanitarian organizations and the Chadian Government have decided to coordinate their efforts. Every Friday an action committee meets at the State Secretariat for Natural Calamities to make decisions on measures to be taken. "This is a perfect example of good coordination," the director of the World Food Program said. Evidently the examination of problems starts with supply. "Without substantial and immediate efforts by donor countries, Chad will experience large-scale famine," Wickens warned.

So far, the World Food Program has only received 20,000 tons of cereals.

Another delicate question is that of Chad's dependence on Nigeria's goodwill and on the water level of the Chari River for the conveyance of aid. Lagos seems willing to allow its borders to be opened for food aid transportation, but very soon the river will not be navigable by ferry boat, which is the only means of transportation between Cameroon and Ndjamena.

In order to reduce the effects of the drying up of the river, the construction of a floating bridge started at the beginning of this week and a concrete bridge is expected to be built in early 1986. The cost of these two projects amounts to $4.5 million.

The country's internal distribution system is another problem that Jamie Wickens has to tackle if he wants to win the battle in Chad. The country has no railroad and there is no road network. Therefore, all-weather vehicles must be found. The World Food Program estimates its immediate needs at 40 vehicles, which represents a sum of $2.5 million. Fourteen million dollars is also needed for aid distribution. The transportation of 1 ton of cereal costs $120 and, according to Wickens, "we no longer accept aid that is not accompanied with the necessary money for its conveyance." Finally, aid "diversions" must be reduced to the barest minimum. Wickens, who estimated the diversions at 20 percent, must set up a control network which will cost him $1 million.

In order to remove all obstacles on the future of Chad, which is threatened with famine, $20 million is needed. This bill is the only way of avoiding any further breakdown. But there is one constant unknown factor that millions of dollars and Jamie Wickens' energy cannot eliminate: the drought. Nobody in Ndjamena wants to even guess what will happen if it does not rain in May.

BURKINA

Briefs

New Envoy to Ghana — The head of state, Captain Sankara, yesterday presided over a Cabinet meeting during which Mrs Maimouna Ouattara, adviser on economic affairs, was appointed ambassador of Burkina Faso to the Republic of Ghana. [Summary][*Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 17 Jan 85 AB*]

GHANA

Annan Receives Kuwaiti, Soviet Envoys

AB172015 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Two foreign envoys today called on Mr Justice D.F. Annan, a member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], at his office in Accra to discuss matters of interest between their countries and Ghana. They are the Kuwaiti ambassador, Mr Muhammadu al-Balhan, and the Soviet ambassador, Mr Semenov.

Welcoming the Kuwaiti envoy, Mr Justice Annan said the meeting is an opportunity to share views in areas of trade and culture common to both countries. He said there is a long-standing bond of friendship between the Arab and African countries and it is an intention of the two governments to strengthen them. Mr Justice Annan hoped that discussions with the officials of the Kuwaiti fund will yield the fruitful results. Replying, Mr al-Balhan said he is impressed at the rate at which development projects are being tackled in the country and the friendliness of Ghanaians. The discussions between the PNDC member and the Soviet ambassador centered on the possibility of developing the Kibi bauxite project. The envoy hoped that the technical school at Tema being financed by the Soviet Union would be ready by the beginning of next September.

IVORY COAST

French External Relations Minister Arrives for Talks

LD172318 Paris International Service in French 2115 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Excerpt] French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas has just arrived in Abidjan in the Ivory Coast. It is the first visit by the new external relations minister of Africa, an official visit which will be devoted to bilateral issues between the two countries, and the drought and famine in West africa. Roland Dumas will also speak with Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny about the Chad conflict after the French withdrawal from that country. In short, it is not by chance that the French external relations minister has chosen by Ivory Coast for his first trip to Africa. The Ivory Coast in fact, you may remember, deliberately missed the 11th summit of the heads of state France and Africa in Bujumbura.

Dumas Comments

AB180930 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 18 Jan 85 p 28

[Text] Roland Dumas, French minister of external relations, arrived in Abidjan yesterday evening at 1920 bearing a friendly and personal message from President Francois Mitterrand to President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

The French minister said upon arrival that he was very happy to touch Ivorian soil and equally happy that his first visit outside Europe is to our country. In his opinion this visit is very significant. First, it will enable him to renew and strengthen the existing ties with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, who will receive him today at Yamoussoukro. Next, this visit will enable him to visit with the head of state, whose wisdom is known to him, to consult him about and discuss major current problems — problems concerning our two countries — and also to ask his opinion on major world questions, an opinion which is important, both because of his wisdom and also because of the president's fame in the Western world.

Roland Dumas also said that French-Ivorian relations are excellent, at both the institutional and personal levels.

"We enjoy rather confortable state-to-state relations, and the French nationals, whom I will meet on Friday, are in a country which is more than friendly," he said.

"Apart from these ties of friendship and affection, and the deep ties between our two countries, there are ties of interest. I think I will be able to examine them with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny when he receives me today," he concluded.

The French minister of external relations, who was met on arrival by Simeon Ake, minister of foreign affairs, and by the French ambassador to the Ivory Coast, Michel Dupunch, will leave Abidjan tonight.

FRATERNITE MATIN on Communique With Egypt

AB171130 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 17 Jan 85 p 6

[Text] On all the questions brought up during the 3-day visit that Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, paid to our country, it was noted with satisfaction that the two governments share identical views and similar approaches to the solutions of these problems. This emerges from the joint communique issued yesterday at the end of the Egyptian minister of state's visit.

At the bilateral level, it was also noted with satisfaction that both governments are willing to broaden and strengthen the cooperation between their two countries. Even though the highlight of Mr Ghali's visit was his meeting with President Houphouet-Boigny in Yamoussoukro, it must be stressed that a friendship and cooperation treaty and an agreement on cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation was signed.

Under the friendship and cooperation treaty, the two countries uphold their firm determination to consolidate and develop their ties of friendship, brotherhood, and solidarity. They want to make joint efforts in order to safeguard their mutual interests.

The two sides pledge their commitment to contribute to strengthening peace in Africa and in the world and to encourage the peaceful settlement of conflicts which can emerge among African countries.

Ivory Coast and Egypt pledge their determination to work toward the rapid and total independence of the whole African Continent and toward the elimination of apartheid and all forms of discrimination in Africa.

To speed up economic growth and social progress in Africa, the two countries will devote themselves to promoting inter-African cooperation. They pledge their commitment to develop their relations in the fields of agriculture, science, culture, technology, and transportation so as to further strengthen mutual understanding between the two peoples.

To establish these relations on a sounder basis, the Ivorian and the Egyptian sides have set up a working framework for periodic meetings. In fact, a joint commission for cooperation has been set up to see to the implementation of the agreements. This commission will hold its meetings every 2 years either in Ivory Coast or in Egypt.

The agreement on technical, cultural, and scientific cooperation stipulates that both sides will strive toward facilitating and promoting the exchange of medical doctors, engineers, lecturers, teachers, artists, men of letters, and other specialists and experts.

On a reciprocal basis, scholarships will be granted to deserving students for studies in either country, and the conditions for the equivalence between the degrees and other certificates issued by institutions of learning from both countries will be examined.

They will also encourage cooperation between the radios and televisions of the two countries.

Speaking at the end of his Egyptian counterpart's visit, Ivorian Foreign Minister Simeon Ake said in respect to the accords: "These two agreements, which are important in view of the diversity and richness of the areas they cover, outline the institutional and legal framework of our cooperation and will make it possible to increase and diversify the exchanges between our two countries."

LIBERIA

United People's Party Political Activities Suspended

AB180730 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] The proposed United People's Party, UPP, headed by Mr Bacchus Matthews, has been suspended from engaging in further political activites by the Special Elections Commission, Secom. Announcing the suspension yesterday at a press conference in Monrovia, Secom Chairman Emmett Harmon said the party's activities were suspended in connection with the circulation of pamphlets which he said was a contravention of Secom's guidelines governing the registration of political parties in Liberia. Chairman Harmon said only when a party has been probated as a political party in the courts of law could such party canvass through the use of pamphlets. He said even though Secom had issued the party letters to canvass for membership, the party had not reached the stage to begin canvassing with leaflets, pamphlets, or anything of that sort.

He said UPP has already been informed of its suspension, but added that the party has appealed to Secom for consideration. Mr Harmon said UPP will remain suspended until the matter is resolved by Secom.

Commenting on the protest by citizens from lower Grand Gedeh county against the appearance of their names on the partisan list of the proposed Liberian Action Party [LAP], he said Secom has informed LAP of the protest and was now awaiting its reaction on the issue.

Justice Minister Explains Closure of NEW OBSERVER

AB170845 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Justice Minister Jenkins Scott has been speaking about the government's decision taken yesterday to indefinitely close down the *DAILY OBSERVER* newspaper in Monrovia. Addressing a press conference at his office, Minister Scott said government has observed that the *DAILY OBSERVER* newspaper does not operate in the best interests of the Liberian society because, he said, it promotes a certain degree of division among the Liberian people.

The LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY quotes the justice minister as saying the newspaper appeared bent on being a (?straightforward) opposition to government. He also said the *DAILY OBSERVER* newspaper had accordingly decided to take actions which tend to ridicule both the government and the head of state. Minister Scott said it was also observed that over the years, issues positive to government were not often published as headline stories in the *DAILY OBSERVER* newspaper.

The justice minister then cited yesterday's issue of the *DAILY OBSERVER* and said the paper chose to subordinate the statement of the head of state to a group of citizens on Tuesday, and decided to make as its headline story the statement of a union leader. This, according to him, is an insult to the man who holds the highest position in the country where a statement made by him could be subordinated to that of a union leader.

Minister Scott said over the months and years the *DAILY OBSERVER* had portrayed itself as a partisan newspaper. He said government has the right to abolish any institution that tends to threaten the stability of the society. This is the (?fourth) time the *DAILY OBSERVER* newspaper has been closed down by government since its establishment in 1981.

MALI

Egypt's Ghali Received by Traore, Comments

AB172300 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] The president of the Republic today at 1400 received in audience Mr Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, now on official visit to our country. The focus of their talks was the strengthening of friendly cooperative relations between Mali and Egypt. The Middle East, Chad, Western Sahara, consolidation of the OAU, reactivation and strengthening of Afro-Arab cooperation, and South-South cooperation in general were also discussed at length during this audience. The talks were held in the presence of our minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, the ambassador of Egypt to Mali, our ambassador to Cairo, the secretary general of the presidency, and the diplomatic adviser.

At the end of the audience, Dr Butrus Ghali confirmed President Moussa Traore's and President Husni Mubarak's agreement on major issues. The Egyptian minister of state was interviewed by Daouda Coulibaly:

[Begin recording] [Ghali] I was charged by President Husni Mubarak with bringing a written message to President Moussa Traore. I have delivered this message. I also brought along with this message certain views which President Mubarak charged me to transmit verbally to the president of the Republic. Our two countries have the same political options and share the same opinion on the importance of regular consultations. We also examined problems in reactivating bilateral cooperation between Bamako and Cairo in diverse fields. Tomorrow we are going to have the first session of the joint Mali-Egypt commission for cooperation, which is scheduled to examine the various aspects of cooperation between our two countries. [Words indistinct] this will be the third meeting of this joint commission.

We also had the opportunity to exchange views on some important African issues, notably the OAU, which will be devoted to economic problems. Here too, Bamako and Cairo agree completely on the need to prepare this conference so that it will be a success for Africa in helping the African Continent find solutions to the grave economic problems that threaten the future of our continent. Drought and the problem of refugees also deserve the attention of our two countries. These problems require well-coordinated diplomatic activity between Mali and Egypt.

In addition to this, there are conflicts existing on the African Continent — Chad and Western Sahara, for example. In this connection too, we think diplomatic cooperation between our two countries can help in finding peaceful solutions to these conflicts. Africa needs peace. We can only resolve our economic problems when there is an atmosphere of peace and security. We cannot afford to have conflicts in the future, so it is absolutely necessary to find solutions to the conflicts that are afflicting the African Continent and to make conciliatory efforts to find these solutions. This is what constitutes the common objective of Malian and Egyptian diplomacy.

[Coulibaly] What is Egypt's position on the proposal for a Maghreb conference on the Western Saharan conflict?

[Ghali] We are in favor of any meeting that can lead to a peaceful resolution of the Sahara conflict. [end recording]

Regional Governor Reports 'Disastrous Harvest'

AB172225 Paris AFP in French 1655 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Bamako, 17 Jan (AFP) — The harvests of the past 3 years have been disastrous as a result of the drought prevailing in the Mopti region, central Mali, the governor of the region stated in an interview published on Thursday in the paper *ESSOR*.

According to Major Mahamane Ibrahim Dicko, the drought has brought in its wake "the necessary movement of people toward the southern part of the country." To keep these people busy during the off season, the governor called on them to cultivate off-season crops for truck gardening. Thus, 21,000 sachets of seedlings offered by the French region of Ille-et-Vilaine, with which the region of Mopti is twinned, as well as 10,000 tons of stem suckers, received mainly from nongovernmental organizations, have been distributed.

NIGER

Saudi Arabia Grants Aid for Well Construction

AB172050 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Excerpt] A technical contract between Saudi Arabia and Niger was signed this afternoon at the Saudi Embassy. Under the agreement, Saudi Arabia has granted Niger a sum of $9.618 million for constructing drinking water wells in rural areas.

NIGERIA

Buhari Offers Port Facilities for U.S. Drought Aid

AB170925 Lagos NAN in English 0905 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Lagos, Jan 16 (NAN) — President Reagan's special envoy to Africa, Gen Vernon A. Walters, said in Lagos today that the U.S. would be willing to consider the extradition of any Nigerian fugitives in his country. "We have an independent judiciary and we will be willing to examine requests for extradition of fugitives," he said shortly after meeting with the head of state, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, at Dodan Barracks. The envoy, who was answering questions from Dodan Barracks correspondents, had been asked whether his country would extradite fugitive Umaru Dikko if he went to the U.S.

Gen Walters said that he was in Nigeria to brief Maj Gen Buhari on U.S. policy toward Africa this year, particularly its food aid to areas affected by drought. He said that he had very useful discussions with the Nigerian leader.

A statement issued after the meeting said that the head of state told Gen Walters that Nigeria would provide port facilities for U.S. relief materials to drought-stricken countries of West Africa. Maj Gen Buhari welcomed American efforts to help the drought-hit countries but frowned at the arms race between America and the Soviet Union, and expressed the hope that the two countries would reach agreement at the Geneva talks and spend part of the money on arms for global economic development. On Namibia, the head of state urged the U.S. to be more positive toward the independence of that country.

Gen Walters, who delivered a special message from President Reagan to Maj Gen Buhari, also briefed him on America's efforts to help drought-stricken African countries, the Geneva arms talks and America's position on South Africa. According to Gen Walters, the U.S. had "constructive new ideas to explore in the areas of disarmament with the Soviet Union".

In his message, President Reagan expressed his support for measures taken by the Nigerian Government to revamp its economy, adding that a stable and prosperous Nigeria was in the best interest of the U.S. because of Nigeria's leading role in Africa.

Gen Walters, who has already visited two other African countries, first came to Nigeria in 1942, the year Maj Gen Buhari was born. "I was a young lieutenant then", he told reporters. Gen Walters has left the country.

Lagos on Western Media Attempts To 'Undermine' OPEC

AB172022 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Viewpoint]

[Text] It was in July last year that Western media first alleged that Nigeria had pulled out of OPEC, but events within and outside the organization soon proved that the report was just a figment of the imagination of the Western media. In spite of that, however, the Western media persisted in their campaign of falsehood by claiming that Nigeria has unilaterally decided to put her daily oil production level at 1.5 million barrels. This was again found to be untrue because Nigeria only asked to be allowed to maintain the temporary increase awarded her by OPEC. But when her request was turned down, she faithfully complied with the decision of the cartel.

It must also be recalled that on the eve of the ministerial council meeting which authorized an increase in Nigeria's temporary oil production level in August and September last year, pseudoexperts in some Western countries, particularly in Britian, had predicted a serious split in the OPEC on the issue of production quota. They were of course disappointed when OPEC emerged from the meeting even stronger. And just last week, the Western media, in a frantic bid to destroy OPEC, rekindled the malicious campaign by giving the impression that Nigeria was again, in their words, quitting the organization. The speculation was against the background of Nigeria withholding her signature to the recent price adjustment announced by OPEC at its last quarterly meeting for 1984 held in Geneva.

Perhaps it may be necessary to tell the Western media that withholding of signature to any arrangement cannot at any time be construed to mean the renouncing of membership of an organization. After all, there are some Western countries that abstain from voting at the United Nations, especially on issues of crucial interest to Africa. They have not been taken to have ipso facto renounced their membership of the world body. So it is clear that the intention of the Western media in frequently alleging that Nigeria is quitting OPEC is to weaken the solidarity of the organization.

Incidentally, Nigeria has used every opportunity at her disposal to restate her firm commitment to OPEC. The last of these was only a couple of days back when the Nigerian head of state, Major General Buhari, in his 1985 budget speech, reaffirmed the country's unflinching support for OPEC. And so, by going back to the unfounded allegation that Nigeria is quitting OPEC, the Western media have proved beyond doubt that their main intention is to undermine the solidarity of the cartel. They cannot succeed in that crusade.

Candidate for Presidency Criticizes OATUU Leadership

AB180915 Lagos NAN in English 0905 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] Lagos, Jan 17 (NAN) — Alhaji Hassan Sunmonu, Nigeria's candidate for the presidency of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), today in Lagos accused the present leadership of the organization of running it as a personal property instead of a collective bargaining centre typical of a labor union. He told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that the executive had adopted a beggerly attitude in generating funds for the organization while the present accounting system at it's secretariat in Accra, Ghana, was "nothing to write home about".

Alhaji Sunmonu, a former leader of the NLC [Nigeria Labor Congress], said that if he was elected president of the continental body at its fourth congress opening on Monday in Lagos, the organization would no longer rely on external sponsors for trade union education. He said that the executive would seriously tackle the question of food, self-sufficiency, unemployment, drought and falling standard of living in African states. Alhaji Sunmonu said that assistance to liberation movements and the fight against apartheid would also be stepped up.

He said that the Federal Government and the NLC were behind his candidature and that he was optimistic of winning the election. The assistant seccretary-general of OATUU, Mr Ali Ibrahim, said that the secretariat had not received any official communication on the interest of any labor leader to contest the organization's presidency.

Delegates from a number of African countries have started arriving in Lagos for the congress.

SENEGAL

Guinean Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

AB181055 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The Guinean minister of foreign affairs, Facine Toure, arrived in Dakar yesterday evening. He was met on arrival by his Senegalese counterpart, Ibrahima Fall. Let us listen to what Facine Toure had to tell Baba Abdoulaye Dem.

[Begin Toure recording] I might say that between Senegal and Guinea there is practically no need for protocol. It is a fact that in our opinion, and yours as well, Senegal forms a part of Guinea and vice versa. Therefore, when I leave Guinea and come to Senegal, I consider that I am at home, so I do not need to be invited here. In the same way, if my counterpart wants to go to Guinea, he is altogether free to do so, because he is going home. I have come here filled with much hope, since my counterpart and I will have an opportunity to exchange views, review our bilateral and multilateral relations, and review the problems that preoccupy Senegal, Guinea, Africa, and, for that matter, the whole world. [end recording]

Briefs

Envoys Present Credentials — The head of state this morning received the credentials of three new ambassadors to our country. They are His Excellency Momo Keita, new Guinean ambassador to Senegal; His Excellency Syed (Sayel), new Pakistani ambassador to Senegal; and His Excellency Jerome (Madounga), new Cameroonian ambassador to Senegal. [Excerpt] [*Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 17 Jan 85 AB*]

TOGO

FRG Grants 8.7 Billion CFA Francs for Projects

AB172155 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Ato Koffi Amega, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and FRG Ambassador to Togo Dr Peter Scholz this afternoon signed a financial cooperation agreement at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This 8.7 billion CFA agreement will be used by our country to finance seven projects, including the construction of a hydroelectric power station in Nangbeto on the Mono River, the supply of potable water in the Tchangba Prefecture, the general supply of goods and services, and the transfer of a nautical expert to the Lome autonomous port. This aid granted to our country by the FRG once again shows the excellent relations between our two countries.

At the end of the signing ceremony, Foreign Minister Ato Koffi Amega asked the FRG ambassador to kindly transmit the Togolese Government's gratitude to the German Government for this positive contribution toward Togo's development efforts.

As for the German diplomat to Lome, he said his country is ready to help Togo emerge from the international economic crisis. As proof, he cited the recent cancellation of Togo's debt to his country, a gesture of great importance that the head of state did not fail to mention in his message to the nation on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of our liberation.

ANGOLA

Message to Party Conference From Security Forces

MB171800 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Message from the defense and security forces to the first national party conference on 17 January read by Major (Patolo) — recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, comrade members of the presidium, distinguished guests, comrade delegates: For a number of days now our people and the members of the MPLA-Labor Party have had the honor of holding with great joy the first national party conference, which is a great event in the life of our nation.

We are certain that this conference will produce important decisions that will be a valuable contribution to strengthening the leading role of the party and will improve the living conditions of our people.

Esteemed comrades, in the frontline and rearguard our brave fighters have been courageously defending the gains of the Angolan people and revolution. In southern Africa the situation continues to be tense due to the obstinacy of the South African racists, who refuse to completely abandon our territory and persist in supporting the counterrevolutionary gangs. Accordingly, the guidelines drawn up by the first extraordinary party congress for the development of our defense and security forces have strengthened the defensive ability of the People's Republic of Angola, as demonstrated by the countless victories we achieved in repulsing acts of aggression by the South African racists and the annihilation of the puppet armed gangsters.

Before the people, the MPLA-Labor Party, the commander in chief, and the revolution, the Angolan defense and security forces renew their pledge to continue to be a firm stronghold in the defense of the gains which have already been won by continuously reinforcing our battle readiness for the total annihilation of the puppet armed gangsters and for a single and indivisible fatherland and the building of socialism. [applause] [slogans]

200 Civilians Reportedly Killed by UNITA Forces

AB171810 Paris AFP in English 1757 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Luanda, Jan 17 (AFP) — Angolan anti-government rebels killed 200 civilians when the rebels attacked the Kafunfo diamond mine in the north-east of the country on December 31, the Angolan Government said here today in its first official reaction to the attack. The government statement also revealed that three Portuguese expatriate workers were kidnapped by the rebels, along with 17 Filipinos, three Britons and two U.S. citizens who were already known to have been abducted.

The rebel Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) claimed responsibility for the attack on December 31 and said it was (?holding) the Filipinos, the Britons and the Americans.

Today's statement also confirmed earlier reports that the rebels had shot down a U.S. cargo plane belonging to the Trans-American Airlines Company, which happened to be arriving at the time of the attack. The plane's pilot died when the aircraft caught fire, the statement said.

(In Washington, a spokesman for Trans-American Airlines confirmed that the pilot was missing, adding that a company team sent to the crash site last week had found a charred body near the remains of the plane. The team is soon to arrive in Europe where it will attempt to identify the body, the spokesman said, adding that the company had received no confirmation of the pilot's reported death.)

The three other occupants of the plane, two U.S. citizens and one Briton, are among the 25 hostages.

The attack had been aimed at "paralyzing a strategic economic structure," the government statement said. At the time of the guerrilla raid, workers were reportedly attempting to re-open the mine, which UNITA claimed to have attacked in January last year. The government statement gave no details on the 200 people said to have been killed in the attack.

LESOTHO

Briefs

New Swiss Envoy — The ambassador of Switzerland to Lesotho, His Excellency Mr Jean Oliver Quinche, today presented his letters of credence to His Majesty Motlotlegi Moshoeshoe II at the royal palace in Maseru. Mr Quinche also paid a courtesy call on the prime minister, the right honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan. [Excerpts] [*Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 17 Jan 85 MB*]

MOZAMBIQUE

60 Percent of 1984 Emergency Food Needs Met

MB180555 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Mozambique received just under 60 percent of needed emergency food aid last year. A report published this week by the Ministry of Domestic [as heard] Trade says as a result, all food aid given to Mozambique had to go the emergency famine areas. In all, almost 309,000 tons of food aid was received by the country last year. Although the amount of the emergency food aid increased during 1984, the report says there was a decline in normal food aid. So, normal food aid simply was relabelled emergency aid.

This, says the report, had a serious impact on normal marketing channels. For instance, over 3 million urban Mozambicans depend on food supplies from the market for all their food. Last year, only 42 percent of the normal demand of food was available in the markets. As a result, says the report, there was a severe disruption in the supply of basic food to urban consumers.

The report cites the main donors of food aid to Mozambique in 1984. In order of donations, they include the EEC, the United States, Poland, the World Food Program, Canada, and Denmark.

The report also says that over 3,000 more tons of food aid is needed during the first 3 months of this year over and above what is already promised. Besides food, the report cites other needs the country has in the fight against drought, including seeds, transport, medical supply, trucks, and fuel.

Spokesperson Denies MNR Threat to Regional Stability

MB180730 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] The Mozambique rebel movement, Mozambique National Resistance [MNR], has rejected charges by South African President P.W. Botha that it is a threat to regional stability. James Lorimer has the story:

[Lorimer] Botha's comments on the MNR follow allegations by a Mozambican newspaper that the killers of two British nationals on Sunday were tracked to the South African border by Frelimo soldiers after the attack. There have also been reports from official and semi-official sources in Mozambique saying the MNR is being supplied by forces operating from South African territory. Botha said the latest allegations were being investigated by the South African Police, and said the government would not tolerate violent action against Mozambique from South Africa. The president also called on the MNR to return to peace talks with the Frelimo government in Pretoria.

An MNR spokesperson has denied the movement is a threat to the region's peace and stability, and said such a threat comes rather from what he called the Mozambique dictatorship. The spokesperson said the MNR would only return to peace talks when Maputo admitted publicly that it wanted a political solution to the war. He said the MNR is not interested in a ceasefire accord and wants presidential elections and the abandonment of Mozambique's Marxist Constitution.

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha: Renamo Should End Mozambican Violence

MB171717 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 1600 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] State President P.W. Botha has said the South African police are investigating allegations that the tracks of the alleged murderers of two British citizens led into South African territory. President Botha also gave the assurance that South Africa would not tolerate violence from its territory against Mozambique. He called on the Mozambique National Resistance movement, Renamo, to end its violence in Mozambique.

In a statement issued in Cape Town, Mr Botha said the government would contact the Mozambican Government in terms of the Nkomati Accord over the allegations surrounding the deaths of the two Britons. He pointed out that regular discussions are held with the Mozambican Government over alleged violations of the Nkomati Accord.

He said Foreign Minister Pik Botha had informed Mozambique that, during his visits to certain African states, he had been given the assurance by those countries that their countries would not be used for the purpose of providing supplies to Renamo.

The state president said the Mozambican Government has informed the South African Government that Mozambique does not suspect South Africa of violating the Nkomati Accord, but that there are indications that Renamo is being assisted by certain individuals from certain countries, including South Africa. This matter is being urgently investigated, as South Africa will not allow its territory to be used by any individuals or organizations for the planning or commission of acts of violence against neighboring states.

Mr Botha emphasized that South Africa would not hesitate to take action against any one who plans or commits acts of violence against Mozambique, or who flees into this country after having committed acts of violence in Mozambique. The government condemns in the strongest terms the acts of violence in Mozambique, and considers these actions as a threat to the stability and orderly development of all the countries of southern Africa.

Johannesburg on U.S. Aid for Mozambique

MB171323 Johannesburg International in English 1100 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Station commentary: "United States Military Aid to Mozambique"]

[Text] The decision by the U.S. Government to provide Mozambique with limited assistance illustrates the extent to which relations between these two countries have been improved, and there can be no doubt that the signing of the Nkomati Accord between South Africa and Mozambique has had much to do with (?it).

The historic accord between Pretoria and Maputo was encouraged by the Reagan administration and other Western governments which had an interest in stability in southern Africa. Despite the unsatisfactory security situation inside Mozambique, there is enthusiasm not only in South Africa, but also in the Western industrialized nations for strengthening trade and aid ties with Maputo, which was once a loyal ally of the Soviet Union.

One of the first influencial visitors to Maputo after the signing of the Nkomati Accord was Mr David Rockefeller, former president of the Chase Manhattan Bank, to advise President Samora Machel what capitalism could do for his country. This was perhaps the clearest indication of the more pro-Western image being projected by President Machel.

Over the past year, Mozambique has exchanged their ambassadors with Washington after American diplomats had been expelled in 1981 on the grounds of being spies. Maputo began (?to count on) the exchange program with the United States, and

toned down its once harsh anti-American rhetoric. President Machel also toured Western Europe, scrapped some of his socialist policies, and then [words indistinct] with his new relationship with South Africa. Since then Mozambique has received 32 million rand worth of food aid from the United States, and signed 13 million rand worth of agreements aimed at increasing agricultural development.

This sort of assistance has never been forthcoming from the Soviet Union, and it is this realization that has contributed towards a more pro-Western stance of the Maputo government. It is this change in attitude that has created the momentum for peace and stability, and the promise of development and progress in the (?entire) subcontinent, where interdependence is an inescapable fact of life.

ANC May Hit Civilian Targets After Conference

MB180901 Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English 20 Jan 85 p 1

["Exclusive" by Howard Barrell in Lusaka]

[Text] The ANC is reconsidering its policy of not attacking "soft targets" like white civilians.

Senior ANC sources in Lusaka told *CITY PRESS* the movement is preparing for a new guerilla offensive — and that part of that preparation is to reassess its hesitancy to hit soft targets.

The current lull in guerilla activity following the Nkomati agreement will be relatively shortlived, the sources added.

"Preparations are being made, and it will not be long before they come to fruition," a senior source told *CITY PRESS* during discussions on the ANC consultative conference to be held this year.

His disclosures were backed up by ANC President Oliver Tambo in an interview with me last week.

The sources said the conference would closely examine ANC military strategy over the past eight years, and major changes in method were likely.

This would probably include an end to hesitancy about hitting white civilians.

Sources also rejected a suggestion in some press circles that the ANC might abandon armed struggle following its Nkomati setback.

The conference — the first major meeting of delegates from all sections of the ANC since the Morogoro consultative conference in 1969 — will also focus on the need to extend the ANC's underground machinery inside South Africa, he said.

Overall ANC political strategy — as drawn up at Morogoro in the document "Strategy and Tactics of the ANC" — is unlikely to change fundamentally.

But there are signs that some delegates will push for a much closer examination of the relationship between the working class and the black nationalist components of "the struggle."

About 200 delegates are expected to attend the conference, the date and venue of which are being kept a closely-guarded secret.

The source said scores of reports, discussion papers and recommendations for the conference had already been received from ANC units inside South Africa. These were being combined with reports from exile sections of the movement in preparing the agenda.

An important feature of the conference is expected to be the progress through the ranks of the ANC of a number of the young men and women who joined the movement in the upheavals of 1976 and later.

New elections for the National Executive Committee [NEC] — the ANC's top administrative body — will also be held at the conference.

One result of the conference could also be the opening up of the committee to all races. Until now, membership has been restricted to African people. A few non-African members have served on other top bodies for some years.

If the conference does decide to open NEC ranks, it will be "a reflection of the ANC's attempt to bring together like-minded people of all races in united action as the nucleus of a future South Africa", according to the source.

"We will be testing the views of the membership on this point," the source added. "There is a widespread belief that the ANC cannot mark time on a matter like this. People of other races have also been making great sacrifices."

A set of new operational and other structures could also arise out of the conference, according to sources.

SWAZILAND

Report on Sentence Given 'ANC Operative' Corrected

MB181032 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 16 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] It has been brought to our attention that there was an error in a report in yesterday's issue about an ANC operative, Phillip Eric Zuma. It was reported in our article that Zuma had been jailed for seven years after being found guilty on three counts of possession of arms of war.

The correct state of affairs is that Zuma was jailed for two years on each of three counts and given an alternative of E1,000 fine for each. The sentences were to run concurently, which means the effective sentence was a fine of E1,000 or two years' imprisonment.

The error is regretted.

ZIMBABWE

Home Affairs Minister Discusses Emergency Powers

MB171955 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 17 Jan 85

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The Zimbabwe Government has once again renewed the state of emergency in the country that has been in force since well before independence. The renewal was announced by Home Affairs Minister Simbi Mubako, who gave as one of the reason the continuing problems with dissidents in Matabeleland. It all comes at a time of increasing political violence in the run up to elections expected to be held by the end of March and claims by opposition politicians such as Joshua Nkomo that they have not been able to mount their campaigns properly because of harassment by the ruling ZANU-PF party. On the line to Harare, Julian Marshal asked Simbi Mubako what extra powers the state of emergency gave to the government.

[Begin recording] [Mubako] Well, the state of emergency which we have now does give one more power than if we did not have it. It is powers to be able to arrest people summarily, the power to interrogate people over a long period, power to hold people, you know, for some time instead of the basic minimum 48 hours, and so on. There are a number of things that you can do in a state of emergency which you cannot do if you don't have it.

[Marshal] But aren't you using a sledgehammer to crack a nut?

[Mubako] Well, I wouldn't call the dissidents that we have here a nut. You know, if you got a quote of my speech with the kind of figures of the dead and injured and crimes and loss of property caused by dissidents, that could hardly be described as a nut.

[Marshal] But has the problem deteriorated, Mr Mubako?

[Mubako] No, I wouldn't say that it has deteriorated. In fact, I can say it has improved a little, but it has not improved far enough. For example, we don't have, we haven't had for some time, a curfew. We (?don't) have to declare a curfew right now. We have had a curfew before, which means things were worse then. But, as I said, they haven't improved far enough to enable us to relax and be able to live under normal conditions. We still need to have the shield in the background just in case things get a little more dangerous.

[Marshal] A number of opposition politicians, most recently Mr Nkomo, have complained about the ability to operate freely in certain areas of the country. What kind of guarantees are you going to be able to offer those people, of being able to campaign freely?

[Mubako] I am aware of the complaints. All we can guarantee them is that it is government policy that everybody be allowed to move around, but if on any particular instance some incidents, like what happened to Mr Nkomo, do occur, then of course we would immediately rush the police there to be able to allow the person to go ahead. Regrettably, last week this was not possible, because we were not prepared for that kind of massive demonstration against Mr Nkomo as it did take place. Hopefully, in the future we will be able to control the crowds.

[Marshall] Would you consider offering Mr Nkomo police protection?

[Mubako] Oh, yes. We would certainly offer any politician police protection. Well, in one sense we offered him police protection, but of different kind, even last week. Were it not for police, I think he would have been done violently directly by the people. But the police managed to protect him and to escort him out of town. [end recording]

HERALD Warns of Low Voter Registration

MB171856 Harare THE HERALD in English 12 Jan 85 p 2

[Editorial: "Your Vote Counts"]

[Text] The 1982 statistics put the potential voter figure at 3,206,551. The Registrar-General's staff have already registered almost 2.5 million.

Considering that only a little over two weeks remains before the exercise is over, working on the figure of 2.5 million might be the most sensible thing. Since there are 80 common roll constituencies, a figure of 31,250 a constituency may be what one is looking at.

The constitution allows fluctuations of plus or minus 20 percent of that figure (25,000 to 37,500), a condition that the delimitation commission might find very useful when it finally comes to deciding what area gets how many constituencies.

For we have it on good authority that some highly populated areas like Harare have not been that enthusiastic about the registration. And areas like Chipinge, for instance, have not yet registered enough people to warrant a constituency.

Bulalima-Mangwe, on the other hand, has registered enough to spill into other areas — 34,847.

If the ruling party is relying on such areas as Harare, then double time work is surely called for in order to rally the people here to register. Unlike Bulawayo, which has an impressive record, Harare has registered a mere 143,364 out of the 300,427 figure of potential voters.

What it means is that should the figure remain as they are at the moment the delimitation commission might have to withdraw two or three of the six seats allocated to Harare and take them elsewhere.

ZANU (PF) could win the election hands down today if the party card were accepted as voter's card. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Unfortunate, too, that many a ruling party's members do not want to realise that.

Which is just how most minority parties in Western multiparty democracies have won general elections. They have done it by instilling such a sense of over-confidence in members of majority parties that most of their members have stayed home in the "knowledge" that they will always win because of their huge numbers.

What everyone should understand is that every vote counts. It's your vote that counts the most and not your neighbor's.

Politicians have just over two weeks to get that message home.

Beitbridge Boasts 90 Percent ZANU-PF Membership

MB180759 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 18 Jan 85

[Text] The ZANU-PF chairman for Beitbridge District, Comrade Phineas (Mulete), has disclosed that more than 90 percent of 52,000 people in the district have joined ZANU-PF. Interviewed by ZIANA, Comrade (Mulete) said the brutal murder of Senator Moven Ndlovu by dissidents last November was deplored by many people who felt that if they belonged to ZANU-PF such cold-blooded murders would end.